

A
SHORT ACCOUNT
OF THE
STATE of MIDWIFERY
IN
London, Westminster, &c.

A
SHORT ACCOUNT

OF THE

STATE OF NEW YORK

IN

THE YEAR 1845

SHORT ACCOUNT
OF THE
STATE OF MIDWIFERY
IN
London, Westminster, &c.

WHEREIN

An effectual Method is proposed, to enable the Midwomen to perform their office in all cases, (excepting those few where instruments are necessary) with as much Ease, Speed, and Safety, as the most dexterous Midmen: Whereby women and children's falling VICTIMS to the Ignorance of Midwomen, so LOUDLY complained of by Chamberlen, Giffard, and Chapman, may for the future be prevented, &c.

By JOHN DOUGLAS, Surgeon, F. R. S.

Non sibi, sed aliis.

L O N D O N:

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To
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
THE
LADY WALPOLE.

MADAM,



EAVEN HAS BESTOWED ON
YOUR LADYSHIP NOT ONLY THE
WILL; BUT ALSO THE POWER
OF ENCOURAGING ALL USEFUL
ARTS, AND OF PUTTING IN EXECUTION ANY
GOOD AND LAUDABLE DESIGN, WHICH, IN
ALL AGES, HAVE BEEN THE ENDEAVOUR AND
GLORY OF THE WISE AND GREAT! IF WHAT
I NOW OFFER, FOR THE HONOUR AND SER-
VICE OF THAT SEX, WHICH YOU SO HIGH-
LY GRACE, SHOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO
YOUR LADYSHIP, I SHALL THINK MY TIME
AND LABOUR WELL SPENT. THAT GOD MAY
CONTINUE TO BLESS, WITH DESERVED HO-
NOURS, THE PERSON AND CONDUCT OF YOUR
ILLUSTRIOUS CONSORT SIR ROBERT, YOUR
LADYSHIP, AND ALL YOUR NOBLE FAMILY,
IS AND SHALL BE THE CONSTANT PRAYER OF

MADAM,

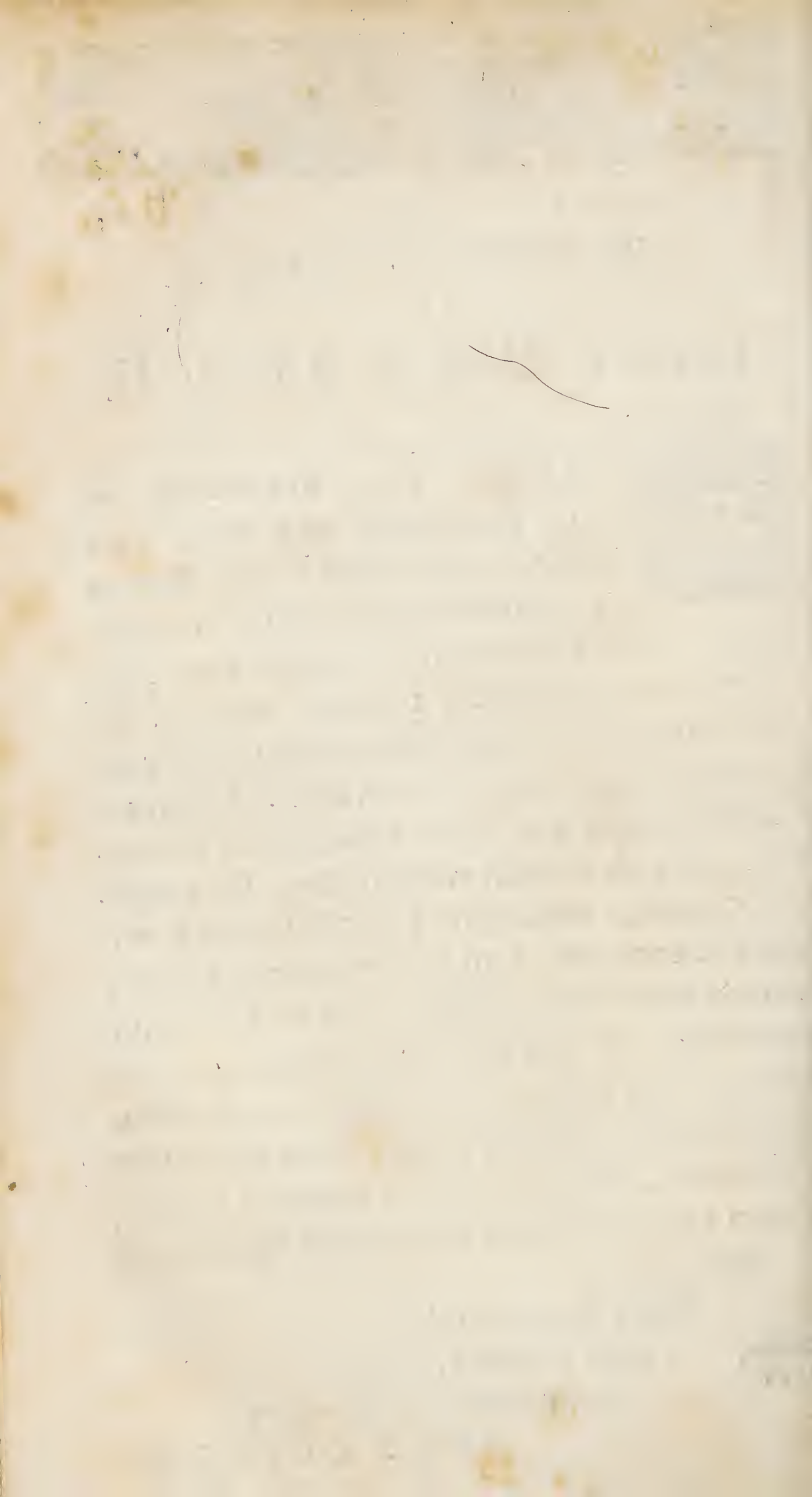
YOUR LADYSHIP'S

London,
1736.

MOST HUMBLE, AND

MOST DEVOTED SERVANT,

JOHN DOUGLAS.



N. B.

I Must here acquaint the Reader, that through the whole I have not once made use of the common, tho' barbarous, word *Man-midwife*, except in quotations, because it carries Nonsense in the very front of it : How can a Man be a Wife, except he be a *Hermaphrodite*? May they not as properly say a Man-Monkey, a Man-Goose, or a Man-Afs. The French expresses it very beautifully by the word *Accoucheur*, i. e. a Man who delivers women in labour. And I shall always express it by the Word *Midman* ; which, tho' not so neat as the French, yet is much better than the absurd Word complained of.

THE common Word *Midwife* is also often very improperly used, E. G. A Maid may be taught the art of delivering women, yet she is not a Wife. Widows also lay women, yet they are not Wives. Therefore to reconcile this impropriety, I shall always, except in quotations, call them *Midwomen*, which includes Maids, Wives, and Widows. But Dr. Maubray, (the worst writer on this subject) and Mr. Chapman after him, make use of another appellation, much more absurd, viz. *Woman-Midwife*, *Women-Midwives* : Pray would not saying *Midwife* and *Midwives*, distinguish their sex sufficiently? Pray who ever heard of *Girl-Midwives*?


Explication of the Latin words which occur in Quotations, &c.

1. *CRANIUM*, the Scull.
2. *Scrotum*, the bag which contains the Testicles in Males.
3. *Labia Pudendi*.
4. *Vagina*, the Sheath, or Passage to the Mouth of the Womb.
5. *Os Tincæ, vel Internum*, the Mouth of the Womb.
6. *Uterus*
or
Matrix, } the Womb.
7. *Fundus Uteri*, the bottom of the Womb.
8. *Fœtus*, the Infant or Child.
9. *Funis Umbilicalis*, the Navel-string.
10. *Placenta*, the Burden, Secundine, or After-birth.
11. *Pelvis*, the Bason, which contains the Womb, Bladder, &c.
12. *Ossa Pubis*, the fore-part of the Bason.
13. *Os Sacrum*, the back-part of the Bason.
14. *Ossa Innominata*, the sides of the Bason.





THE STATE of MIDWIFERY.

S it not very surprising, nay and unaccountable, that tho' almost all the other parts of Surgery have been cultivated with great assiduity, by the most knowing Men, ever since Hippocrates, nay and before him, yet ('till about the middle of the last century) the operations necessary for the safety of women in labour, and their children; operations of more consequence to mankind than almost all the rest; operations so often wanted, so difficult many times to perform, and upon which always two, and sometimes more lives depend, seem to have been entirely left to a parcel of ignorant women, or to Men little better qualified than they, who upon any extraordinary difficulty (as too many still do) took hooks or knives, and carved the children to pieces; and often also destroyed the Mother?

The Surgeons at Paris, &c. to remedy this evil, have for many years past, obliged all the Midwomen to be examined and approved of at their hall, before ever they dare set up for practice: An example most worthy of imitation! But how, or by what infatuation, our *Dom. fac. totum* suffered these

operations to drop through their fingers, (as if they were no part of their profession, as if they were not manual operations, or were of little or no consequence to mankind,) into the hands of Doctors, *inferioris fortis medici*, (as a certain Gentleman calls them,) Apothecaries, and the lowest class of their own Fraternity! (some of whom have been, and are, as illiterate, of as low capacities, and as little acquainted with the other great operations of Surgery, as almost any of the women) and have and do allow every silly woman, who takes it in her head, with very little or no instruction, to practice *impune* among his Majesty's subjects, without any the least examination or licence! are questions I shall not now take upon me to answer. But to proceed:

THE first rational account we ever had of delivering women in labour, was published at Paris by Mr. Mauriceau, in 1668. In his dedication, he gives the following honest account of his design: “ I have the rather undertaken this work, that
 “ Midwives might find therein what they ought to
 “ know, the better to exercise their art, and un-
 “ dergo the examination they are obliged to at
 “ Surgeons-Hall, before they are admitted to
 “ practice.” In his preface, he says, “ I have
 “ not run out into superfluous discourse” (i. e. he had avoided all puzzling and unintelligible Theories and Hypotheses, about generation, nutrition, superfoetation, and such sort of jargon,) “ that I might be more serviceable both
 “ to Surgeons and Midwives.”

THIS plain practical work, would undoubtedly have had a much better effect upon our Mid-

women, had they not been puzzled and confounded, (instead of being instructed) by the artful insinuations of the translator, in his preface and marginal notes, published in 1672. as will appear by the following quotations.

DR. Chamberlen, in his preface, says, “ Having long observed the great want of necessary directions how to govern women with child, and in child-bed, &c. I design’d a small manual to that purpose; but meeting some time after in France with this treatise of Mauriceau, which in my opinion exceeds all former Authors, I changed my resolution into that of translating him; whom I need not much commend, because he is fortified with the approbation of the wardens of the Surgeons company of Paris.” Pray would the Doctor have thought he had been so well fortified, if he had had the approbation of the then wardens of the Surgeons company of London? or the approbation of the college of physicians at Paris? “ I have carefully rendered his book into English, for the benefit of our Midwives.” This is certainly a very fair and honest Exordium, a worthy and laudable Design; but pray mark the end on’t: “ Of whom many may yet very well admit of an additional knowledge.” This cannot be denied, but pray where are they to go to look for this additional knowledge, if he means, in their profession? Is it to be found in his preface and marginal notes upon Mauriceau’s work? No! they rather darken, than explain, the Author’s meaning. But the additional knowledge the Doctor means, and has taken such pains to inculcate, through the

whole of his preface and notes, is to inform them that He and his family can assist them better than any other Men; that they have no business to meddle with any child, except those who just drop into their hands, and that whenever the least difficulty appears, to send for him, or some of the Nostrum-mongers; as will appear evidently from the tenure of the whole.

THEN he goes on, “ The principal thing worthy the observation of Midwives in this book, is accurately to discover what is properly their work, and when it is necessary to send for advice and assistance, that so, *many women and children may be preserved, that now perish for want of seasonable help.*” i. e. fall victims to the ignorance of Midwomen. “ And that Midwife’s skill is certainly the greatest, and she deserves most commendation, who can soonest discover the success of the labour, and accordingly either wait with patience, or timely send for advice and help.” Pray is not that Midwwoman’s skill still greater? and does she not deserve much more commendation? who can soonest discover what obstructs the delivery, and then removes the obstruction herself, and thereby saves the woman the fright, trouble, and expence, of sending for any farther help or advice? “ Nor can it be so great a discredit to a Midwife (let some of them imagine what they please) to have a woman or child saved by a man’s assistance, as to suffer either to die under her own hand, tho’ delivered: For that Midwife mistakes her office, that thinks she hath performed it, by only laying

“ the woman ; because her principal duty is to
 “ take care that she and her child be well, with
 “ safety and convenient speed parted ; ” who
 don’t know that ? “ and, if this be impossible for
 “ her, it will justify her better to wave her imagi-
 “ nary reputation, and send for help.” No doubt
 of it. But would it not have been much better if
 they had been taught to do their office themselves ?

THUS you see Mr. Mauriceau’s design in publishing his book, was to instruct the Midwomen how to perform their office better ; but Dr. Chamberlen perverts that design, and seems to have the Interest of the Midmen, and not that of the Midwomen, or ——— principally at heart, as is evident from the foregoing quotations, &c.

Notwithstanding all these coaxes and threats, which he plays off so briskly upon the town Midwomen, (who are undoubtedly much better qualified, than those in the country) in case they don’t send for him, &c. on every trifling difficulty, he goes on, and says, “ Yet in countries and places where help
 “ and good advice is not seasonably to be had,
 “ Midwives are compelled to do their best, as
 “ God shall enable them.” Pray has God any where promised to give more assistance to a country than a town Midwoman ? Thus the poor country Midwomen are to act as God shall enable them ; but the town Midwomen, as the Doctor &c. shall direct, *Utrum horum !* Pray has God Almighty given us the least ground to expect, that he will inspire us in an instant, even upon the most urgent occasion, with the perfect knowledge of any useful art, only because it would just then be of ser-

vice to us? No. But he has told us, that, if we want to acquire the knowledge of any useful art, we must diligently and assiduously apply ourselves to the study of it in the most proper manner we can. *Diilaborantibus omnia vendunt!* “ Which dangerous and uncertain trials it doth not become them to put in practice upon women, where no timely assistance need be wanting.” Thus you see, the Doctor thinks dangerous and uncertain trials may lawfully be put in practice on women in the country, tho’ not upon those in town, where he and the rest of the Nostrum-mongers may be had. But, pray, might not many of these uncertain and dangerous trials, both in town and country, have been prevented, if he had endeavoured as much to instruct them how to give better assistance themselves, as he has done to let them know when to send for him, &c. Are not the women’s lives in the country as valuable as those in town?

THE N he goes on to tell them in what particular cases they ought to send for him, &c. viz. “ 1. In most wrong births, with or without pain.” (alias with or without danger or difficulty) “ 2. All floodings with clots, tho’ little or no pain, whether at full time or not. 3. All convulsions. 4. Many first labours. 5. And some others;” (i. e. every other case, when the People are substantial,) viz. “ tho’ the child be right, if little or no pain, after the breaking of the waters, and the child’s not following them in some six or ten hours after, require the good advice of, and, peradventure, speedy delivery by expert phyfi-

cians in this practice." Pray would not expert Surgeons in this practice do as well? Is it not evident from the Doctor's list of cases, that very few women (except those in the country, or who are very poor) could escape those expert Physicians? viz. He, his father, and two brothers.

BUT least the charge he has given to the Midwomen (of sending for him, &c. upon every trifling occasion) should not have weight enough, he also threatens the poor suffering women with what may happen to them, in case they don't oblige their Midwomen to send for them. " Let me
" therefore advise the good women, not so readily
" to blame those Midwives who are not backward
" in dangerous cases," (*or not dangerous cases,*)
" to desire advice, least it cost them dear;" (pray don't it always cost them dear when they do?)
" by discouraging and forcing them to presume
" beyond their knowledge and strength," As for their want of knowledge, I take it to be more their misfortune than their fault, because they have not yet had such proper opportunities of informing themselves, as they ought to have; but as to strength, I'm satisfied most of them have enough, did they know how to make a proper use of it.
" especially when too many are over confident." For this compliment the Midwomen are as much obliged to him, as for many others he passes upon them.

In another place he says, " If therefore the
" use of hooks by Physicians" (pray what business have physicians with hooks? Are not pen, ink, and paper, their proper instruments? What right

have they then to encroach upon us? Don't they make a sad outcry, are not they alarmed as if their craft was in danger, when we use pen and ink? except in Pauper cases. “ and Surgeons, be condemned, (without thereto necessitated by some monstrous birth, &c.)” Now you see he is obliged to own, notwithstanding all he says to the contrary, that hooks are sometimes absolutely necessary. “ We can much less approve of a Midwife's using them, as some here in England boast they do ; which rash presumption, in France, would call them in question for their lives.” The Doctor allows, pag. 5. country Midwives are compelled to do their best as God shall direct them : Now supposing that God should direct one of them to make use of a crochet, in a fit case, and after a proper manner, must she be tried for her life for it? Is not this a very hard charge upon the poor Midwomen, without any proof? I must dissent so far from the Doctor's opinion, that I believe the hardiest Midwoman in London, would tremble at the very thought of it, unless they were fully instructed how to use it, as ——— ; but for what they may do in the country, according to the Doctor's advice, above recited, I cannot answer.

Mr. Mauriceau (pag. 179.) says, “ A Midwife vaunted she was more skilful in her art than any Surgeon.” Upon which Dr. Chamberlen remarks, that, “ It seems Midwives in other countries, as well as England, have that pernicious vanity.” But, pray were there no Midmen then in England, who had vaunted they could perform what

they really could not? Vid. Mr. Mauriceau's 26th observation, quoted below.

MR. Mauriceau, pag. 203. " If the arm be advanced as far as the shoulder, &c. Dr. Chamberlen remarks, " which seldom is, unless an Ignorant Midwife tamper with it." Are not these pretty compliments? but where is the instruction? Are not all practitioners, of the very least experience, sensible it often happens without any tampering. But notwithstanding he has been so lavish in these, and many other places, in censuring those good women, yet he winds up his preface with a salvo for all, viz. " I hope no good Midwives will blame me for reprehending the faults of Bad ones, who are only aimed at, and admonished in this work; and I'm confident none but the Guilty will be concerned, and take it to themselves, which I desire they may, and amend. Is not this cobweb easily seen through? Is not this the first time he has mentioned good Midwives?

Dr. Chamberlen's account of his secret.

HE is not content with amusing, confounding, nay, and abusing the Midwomen, at the same time he makes a shew of teaching them, but also serves the Midmen the same sauce; by telling them he has a secret, which will do wonders, i. e. It will save many children's lives, which, they who do not know it, (*or something good,*) must destroy; but cannot in honour notwithstanding it might save thousands of lives)

discover it even to them, because it might prejudice the personal interest of his father and two brothers, who only, in all Europe, know it: But what they may do in Africa, Asia, &c. this deponent sayeth not. His own story is as follows: “ My Author, lib. ii. cap. 17. justifies
 “ the fastening hooks in the head of a child that
 “ comes right, and yet because of some difficulty
 “ or disproportion, cannot pass; which I confess
 “ has been, and is yet the practice of the most
 “ expert artists in Midwifery, not only in Eng-
 “ land, but throughout Europe. But I can neither
 “ approve of that practice, nor those delays ;”
 (Pray observe how long he was in attempting to deliver that woman at Paris, vid. M. M. obs. 26. quoted below; “ because my father, brothers,
 “ and self, (tho’ none else in Europe as I know,) Pray had not Sir David Hamilton more business, and as good, if not better success, in the practice of Midwifery than he? May we not then reasonably suppose, that he either knew his secret, or had one of his own, tho’ he never made any noise about it, which answered as well? “ have,
 “ by God’s blessing, and our industry, attained to,
 “ and long practised a way to deliver women in
 “ this case, without any prejudice to them or their
 “ infants; tho’ all others (being obliged, for want
 “ of such an expedient, to use the common way)
 “ do, and must endanger, if not destroy one or
 “ both with hooks.” Pray would it not have been a grateful return, for God’s blessing them with so useful a secret, to have communicated it to the rest of the Midmen, whereby the destruction

of so many women and children, might have been prevented? “By this manual operation a labour may be dispatched, (on the least difficulty)” so that on the least difficulty, either to Midwomen or Midmen, we must immediately run for one of the Nostrum-mongers. “with fewer pains, and sooner, to the great advantage, and without danger both of woman and child.

HE is not content with having thus acquainted us with the great value of his secret, and who besides himself are possessed of it, in his epistle, but also mentions and recommends it over and over, *ad nauseam usque*, through the whole of his remarks on this work, for fear the Midwomen should attend Mr. Mauriceau so much, that they should forget his *Nostrum*, E. G. Mr. Mauriceau, pag. 176. “If there be any case, wherein a Surgeon ought to make the greatest reflection, and use most precaution in his art, it is this; to know whether the infant be alive or dead?” Dr. Chamberlen remarks, “This caution is not so necessary to those practitioners which can fetch a child coming right, or with the Arm, without hooks or sharp instruments, as the translator of this book, and his father, and his brothers can.”

MR. Chapman in his essay on Midwifery, 1733. says, Dr. Chamberlen’s secret was the Forceps. Then makes the following quaint observation on the fore-mentioned remark: “Here is something very odd methinks, in applying this secret to both these cases, as equally serviceable to either, the cases differing so very

“ widely, and requiring a quite different method :
 “ For the head presenting, and far advanced, is
 “ to be taken hold of by the Forceps, and ex-
 “ tracted ; when a child which presents an arm,
 “ is to be turned, and so brought away by its
 “ feet ;” i. e. without either hooks or sharp in-
 struments.

WHENCE its evident, Mr. Chapman did not apprehend the Doctor’s view in applying his secret to the arm as well as the head. It was undoubtedly the better to puzzle the cause, the better to conceal his *Nostrum*, that he applies it to two cases, between which there is not the least analogy. He might as well have said, it would be of great use in extracting the stone, or in drawing teeth.

MR. Mauriceau, pag. 204. “ The arm
 “ is to be twisted off, if the child be dead.”
 Dr. Chamberlen, “ Good if the child be dead ;
 “ but it may be always done without.” Undoubt-
 edly it may be often done without twisting it off,
 but not with his Forceps. Mr. Mauriceau, *ibid.*
 “ Before you use the Crotchet, be sure the child is
 “ dead.” Dr. Chamberlen, “ this caveat is un-
 “ necessary to those who understand the art aright.”
 i. e. only the *Nostrum*-mongers. Dr. Chamber-
 len, “ The use of the crotchet may be con-
 “ nived at when the child is dead ; but because
 “ the most careful may often times be mistaken,
 “ it cannot be approved of ; as appears in the
 “ translator’s epistle to the reader.” Dr. Chamberlen,
 pag. 226. “ Tho’ the Crotchet cannot hurt a dead
 “ child, yet it may endanger the woman by slipping :”
 (So may a Lancet, Traphine, or any other instru-

ment in the hands of those who don't know how to use them.) " Wherefore the translator of this " treatise cannot approve of it, having an easier " and safer way to do this operation, as he mentions in his preface to this book. Dr. Chamberlen, pag. 227. " All this (*viz. the use of the Crotchbet*) were to no purpose, if others had the art to do it, as the translator can, and mentions in his preface to this book.

Dr. Chamberlen, pag. 229. " Those instruments are very unsafe for the woman;" (undoubtedly, when in unexperienced hands, otherwise they are not at all dangerous;) " and having a better way, I cannot pass them without manifesting my dislike." Mr. Mauriceau, pag. 194. " It's a great question, whether a living child ought to be destroyed to save the mother?" Dr. Chamberlen, " This question is out of doors, " for the reason given in the foresaid preface." I'm afraid this will prove but a very bad reason in some cases, notwithstanding it's laid down with such a magisterial and dictatorial air, as I shall prove at a more proper time. Mr. Mauriceau, pag. 195. says, " It is always better of two evils " to choose the least, so we ought always to prefer the mother's life before the child's." Dr. Chamberlen, " This chapter might be very well spared, if every practitioner had the art the translator professeth in his epistle, of fetching a child, when it comes right, without hooks, or turning it."

If turning will do, there is never any occasion for hooks, or for his secret either. Thus you see

with what fulsome repetitions, what nauseous recommendations of his *Nostrum*, he has stuffed his remarks; but has not made one remark, that can be of any advantage to our Midwomen; and seems to have had nothing else in view through the whole, but to tell them when they ought to send for him, and to let them know, that he, &c. could serve them better than any body else.

OUR translator, like all the rest of the Secret-mongers, has given a better character of his *Nostrum*, than I fancy it deserves. E. G. He has taken a great deal of pains, and used all his art to persuade us, that he, &c. can fetch a child, which presents right, at all times, and in all circumstances, without hooks, or turning, &c. but how this quadrates with the two following cases, (one of which is translated by the Doctor himself, and the other is recorded in Mr. Mauriceau's 26th observation,) I leave the reader to judge.

MR. Mauriceau, pag, 198. tells us, that “ in
 “ the year 1660, while he practised Midwifery in
 “ the Hôtel Dieu, one of the Deputies had a wo-
 “ man whose Child she could not possibly bring
 “ forth further than its head; therefore called the
 “ head Midwife to her aid; who likewise used her
 “ utmost skill but in vain: And when they had
 “ both thus tir'd themselves in pulling the head,
 “ I came in accidentally, and they desired me to
 “ examine, and find the cause why the child could
 “ not be drawn forth with all their strength,
 “ which was sufficient to have drawn forth the
 “ shoulders, if they had been as big again as they
 “ were; which having considered, I immediately

“ conceived the difficulty to proceed from some-
“ thing else : I then put my hand into the womb,
“ up to the child’s shoulders, which seemed small
“ enough to pass with ease, therefore I concluded
“ that the hindrance was not there.

“ After that, I put my hand farther up to-
“ wards it’s belly, which I found very much swell-
“ ed by a dropfy. I therefore told them that it
“ was impossible ever to deliver the woman, until
“ the water was emptied by piercing the belly :
“ But not having a Crotchet in my pocket, I sent
“ to another Surgeon of the same hospital, and
“ told him the story, adding withal that the child
“ could not be born, unless an orifice was made
“ to empty the belly : but he would not take my
“ advice, imagining he could extract it with his
“ hands ; but he soon separated the head from
“ the shoulders, the Midwives having almost done
“ it before. Afterwards he fell to work with his
“ Crotchet, and in about three quarters of an hour
“ brought away both arms, several ribs, heart,
“ and lungs, and tired himself heartily, yet in all
“ this time, he had never opened the Diaphragma,
“ nor Abdomen, which I advised him to do every
“ moment, without which it was impossible to
“ draw forth the rest of the body. Then he gave
“ me the Crotchet, telling me I might weary my-
“ self as well as he had done ; which I willingly
“ accepted, knowing very well, that instead of
“ amusing myself, as they had done, by pulling it,
“ I ought only to pierce the infant’s belly to let out
“ the waters, after which all the rest would easily
“ follow. I then introduced my left hand as far

“ as the side of the infant’s belly, and then with
 “ my right guided the Crotchet upon it, to the
 “ same place, then turned its point, and struck it
 “ into the infant’s belly, so that I made a hole big
 “ enough to receive the ends of my two fingers,
 “ with which I stretched the orifice, and the wa-
 “ ters gushed out, so that with one hand I easily
 “ drew out the rest of the body, to the astonish-
 “ ment of this Surgeon, whom I could never
 “ persuade that the infant was so full of the dropfy.
 “ I filled the belly afterwards, through the hole I
 “ had made, and it held about five quarts. I
 “ have set down this story, that other Surgeons
 “ may know how to behave on the like occa-
 “ sions.”

PRAY what could Dr. Chamberlen have done
 with his Forceps in this case? But the following
 story will more clearly shew, that he himself has
 been foiled, SECRET AND ALL.

Mr. Mauriceau’s observation xxvi.

“ Of a woman who died with her child in her
 “ womb, which could not be extracted by an
 “ English Physician who undertook to deliver
 “ her.

“ **O**N the 19th of August, 1670. I visited a
 “ little woman, about thirty-eight years of
 “ age, who had been in labour of her first child
 “ for four days, the membranes being broke the first
 “ day of her illness, and yet there was hardly any
 “ dilatation of the mouth of the womb. I ordered

“ her to be blooded, and in case that did not
“ encrease her pains, to give her a decoction of
“ Senna, in order to excite them; which succeed-
“ ed so well, that next day the womb was suffi-
“ ciently dilated. Nevertheless, it was not possi-
“ ble to deliver her. The infant presented it's
“ head, but could not advance into the passage,
“ because of the straitness and bad formation of
“ the bones of the Pelvis, which made it impossi-
“ ble for me to introduce my hand, tho' I have a
“ very small one, or any other instrument where-
“ with I could deliver her. I therefore declared
“ to the good women, that it was not possible to
“ deliver her at all, except by the Cæsarian section,
“ which I did not care to meddle with, &c. But
“ soon after I left her, there was an English Phy-
“ sician, named CHAMBERLEN, recommended by
“ somebody to visit her.

“ WHEN he came and heard how it was, and
“ what had passed, he seemed exceedingly sur-
“ prized that a Man of so much experience, as I was
“ reputed to have, could not deliver her; yet, for all
“ that, he assured them, that he would deliver her in
“ less than half a quarter of an hour, let the diffi-
“ culty be what it would: Accordingly he set a-
“ bout the work, but instead of finishing it in half
“ a quarter of an hour, as he had promised, he
“ worked above three hours, (SECRET AND ALL)
“ without any intermission, except to breath a
“ little now and then. And at last, having
“ spent, to no purpose both his strength and art,
“ and seeing the poor woman ready to expire in
“ his hands, he was obliged to give it up, and

“ declared also, that it was not possible to deliver
 “ her. The poor woman died with her child in
 “ her belly about twenty-four hours after he
 “ left her : Upon opening the body, I found
 “ the womb pierced and tore in several places,
 “ by the instruments that Physician had blind-
 “ ly used without the guidance of his hand,
 “ which being much larger than mine could
 “ not be introduced. Nevertheless this Physi-
 “ cian had come from England to Paris, about
 “ six months before, in hopes of making his for-
 “ tune. He gave it out that he had a particular
 “ secret for delivering children when the head pre-
 “ sented ; and bragg’d that he could lay the most
 “ troublesome and dangerous in half a quarter of
 “ an hour. Nay, he had even proposed to the
 “ king’s first physician, that if he would give
 “ him 10000. crowns he would discover his se-
 “ cret. But the bad success of the fore-mentioned
 “ case put him so much out of humour, that he
 “ returned a few days afterwards to England.”

DOES not this story shew how little dependance
 there is upon secrets, tho’ never so positively re-
 commended ? Does not this shew how cautious
 people ought to be in believing of them ? Does
 not this shew, that, tho’ they may be really use-
 ful in some cases, yet they are not so in all, as
 they commonly pretend ?

P R E F A C E. “ I shall now take leave to offer
 “ an apology for not publishing the secret I men-
 “ tion we have to extract children without hooks,
 “ where other artists use them, viz. there being
 “ my father and two brothers living, that practise

“ this art, I cannot esteem it my own to dispose
 “ of,” (*a pretty and reasonable excuse indeed!*)
 “ nor publish it without injury to them ; (*but there*
was not a word of this when he was bargaining with the
French king’s first Physician,) “ and think I have
 “ not been unserviceable to my country, altho’ I
 “ do but inform them that the fore-mentioned
 “ three persons of our family, and myself, can
 “ serve them in these extremities, with greater
 “ safety than others.”

IF Ward’s Pill, or any other quack medicine, was found by experience, to be generally of use in this, that, or t’other disease, it may be sent with proper directions, to all parts of the kingdom ; so that the most distant inhabitants would have almost the same benefit of it, with those among whom Mr. Ward lived ; and consequently Mr. Ward might very justly say, that (notwithstanding he would not discover what his medicine was composed of, because it would be worth so much yearly to him and his successors,) yet his country was obliged to him, for telling them where they might purchase so beneficial a remedy.

BUT how few in the whole community could be the better for all the manual operations in Midwifery, four Men could perform ? Can four Men deliver all the good women in England, who want their assistance, supposing they were to ride post night and day after them ? Is there any proportion between the benefit the publick would receive from the quack medicines, and the secret manual operations of four Men ? What service is it then to the country in general, for the Doctor to tell them,

that he and three others can serve them with greater safety than other Men?

NEVERTHELESS I'm far from thinking, that the publick has any right to expect, that every private Man (who, at a considerable expence, and assiduous study, makes any considerable discovery in manual operations, which cannot be made universally useful, as medicines may, and really are, except they are fully and distinctly explained,) should always communicate *Gratis* the fruits of his labour and expence. No! they ought to be handsomely rewarded, not only for the real service they have done, but to encourage industry in others.

BUT the Doctor offered to discover this secret to the French for ten thousand crowns; pray why did he not make the same offer to his country? Had not his country better have given each of them ten thousand crowns, than exposed so many thousands of beautiful women, and innocent children, to the danger of hooks, sharp instruments, &c. the Doctor exclaims so much against? Surely yes.

Dr. Chamberlen, pag. 221. says, "The Author, (viz. Mauriceau,) you see was only a Surgeon." Pray what would he have him be? a Doctor, an Apothecary, or what? Are not these operations merely chirurgical? who then can be so fit to perform them as Surgeons? Are not the *Superioris fortis medici*, who never delivered one of them, as capable of directing for them, both before and after delivery, as any Doctor or Apothecary who had laid several? No doubt of it! they are much more capable! and it's very surprizing they don't assert their own right, and ours? What then can

Dr. Chamberlen mean by this sneer, this sarcasm? Especially when Mr. Mauriceau is then talking as much to the purpose, as ever he, or any body else did, on that subject, viz. that when a woman has a violent flooding, &c. the best way to serve her, is to deliver her as soon as possible, whether at full time or no? Prove the contrary who can.

IN pag. 172. he explains himself a little more plainly. Mr. Mauriceau says, “ A Surgeon
“ ought always to endeavour to bring the chil-
“ dren alive.” Upon which the Doctor makes the following most insolent remark, “ And therefore
“ undertake what he can safely perform, and
“ what he cannot, leave to others that may,” (pray who be they, Doctors, Apothecaries, Shavers, or Nostrum-Mongers?) “ for life is not to
“ be played with.”

Is not the good which Surgeons do their patients as evident as the Sun? E. G. When they cut for the stone, when they perforate the scull, reduce a luxation, &c. neither of which can be affected only by the strength of nature. But as the learned and honest BAGLIVI frankly owns, “ It’s often doubtful whether
“ the cure, supposed to be performed even by Physi-
“ cians of the first rank, was mostly owing to na-
“ ture, or the medicines, &c. which they directed.” E. G. “ In fevers, small pox, consumptions, &c.” What ground had he then to charge the Surgeons with playing with life? The Doctor owns, pag. 14. “ That
“ Surgeons only practise Midwifery in France;” and so they do, or ought to do, every where else.

BUT how far the Doctor went out of his own ken, when he talked to Surgeons in such a magi-

sterial and dictatorial way, in matters merely surgical, the three following cases will evidently demonstrate. Case 1. Mr. Mauriceau, pag. 344. says, “ That children’s gums ought to be cut
 “ with a Lancet, tho’ Nurses sometimes do it with
 “ their Nails.” Yet our commentator says, “ A
 “ thin groat (*a small piece of silver*) is as good or
 “ better than either.” Whence it’s evident, our translator was only a Doctor. Notwithstanding he takes upon him to direct the Surgeons in such an imperious and dictatorial way ; yet in this observation, he betrays himself, and plainly shews, he did not understand this very little part of Surgery, even so well as the very Nurses. The method he proposes is so far from being better than Mauriceau’s, he takes upon him so freely and publicly to correct, that it is worse than that used by the old women, as will appear at sight, to every proper judge. Case 2. Mr. Mauriceau, pag. 227. says, When by the first fastning of the Crotchet,
 “ the head is drawn a little lower, you may loosen
 “ it out of the first place, to fasten it further up,
 “ that stronger hold may be taken ; and so suc-
 “ cessively removing and fastening of it till the head
 “ is quite born, &c. Dr. Chamberlen, “ This is
 “ needless and dangerous, in case Crotchets be used,
 “ unless they lose their hold.”

CAN any thing expose a Man’s judgment more than finding fault in the wrong place ? Would not this remark convince any Man that he had never used a Crotchet, nay, that he did not know how to use it ? The Doctor himself allows, that Crotchets are absolutely necessary in some cases, and considering

his large share of practice, it's impossible but some of these very cases must fall in his way. Pray what did he do then? Did he use the Crotchet himself? or did he send for a Surgeon to use it for him? Case 3. Of a violent Flooding. Mr. Mauriceau, pag. 89. "The woman being put into a proper posture, the Surgeon having well greased his hand, introduces the end of his fingers into the mouth of the womb, then opens them gently to dilate it," (i. e. by little and little, without either great violence or hurry,) "wide enough to admit his whole hand; then, if the membranes are not broke, let him break them; then, tho' the Head presents, let him search for the feet, and draw it forth by them, because there is better hold, and more easy to deliver by them, than by the head, or any other part of the body." Dr. Chamberlen, "Without it could be done without hooks, as mentioned in the preface of the translator."

IF this is not puzzling the cause, if this is not amusing and confounding people instead of instructing them, pray what can be called so? Is not bringing the child out by the feet, as Mr. Mauriceau directs, bringing it out without hooks? Besides, don't every body know, that it may be quicker brought away by the feet than by the head; and that the sooner the woman is delivered, the sooner the flooding will stop? Is not this making good, bad? Is not this finding fault where there is none? Don't this prove that Mr. Mauriceau was a good and faithful Surgeon, and that Chamberlen was only a ——— Doctor.

THUS, upon the whole, I think it's evident, that Dr. Chamberlen's main design, in his preface, and notes upon Mr. Mauriceau's book, was to puzzle, rather than instruct the Midwomen or Midmen, to persuade them, that he, and the rest of the Nostrum-mongers, could serve them better than any other artists; and to represent Physicians, tho' unacquainted with almost every other part of Surgery, as fitter persons to deliver women in labour than Surgeons, &c.

In 1734. Dr. HODY published 225 Cases in Midwifery, written some years before by the late ingenious and experienced Mr. WILLIAM GIFFARD, Surgeon and Man-midwife. In which he has given the following account of the IGNORANCE of the Midwomen, and its fatal consequences.

CASE I. “ **I** Was fetched to the wife of a chair-
 “ man, and found one arm of the
 “ child sunk down without the outer orifice, and
 “ the shoulder and side so engaged, and sunk
 “ so low, that I could neither return the arm, nor
 “ with all my strength move the other parts to
 “ fetch it by the feet. Another Man-midwife
 “ ——— had been there before me, who at first
 “ would not attempt any thing without a sum of
 “ money was laid down; (*a great piece of inhu-*
 “ *manity too many are guilty of,*) but upon assu-
 “ rances that he should be paid, he worked upon
 “ the poor woman, and left her in a worse con-
 “ dition than he found her. (Thus you see Mid-

“ men are not all witches any more than the
 “ Midwomen.) However this was the state I
 “ found her in, which gave me occasion to re-
 “ primand the Midwife, telling her she had not
 “ sent for help in time, and not till she had work-
 “ ed upon her, which had occasioned those parts
 “ to be sunk so low, and so strongly engaged,
 “ that I could neither return the arm, nor pass
 “ my hand (the whole passage being stopped up
 “ on every side) to fetch it by the feet; which
 “ might have been very easily done had I been
 “ sent for in time. The case being so desperate
 “ at first, I was at a loss where to begin: Her
 “ pulse was very languid and low, and she was in
 “ cold sweats, so that I fear’d she would die un-
 “ der the fatigue and pain she must of necessity
 “ undergo. Then he twisted off the arm, and
 “ with great difficulty extracted the rest of the
 “ infant with his Crotchet; yet after all this
 “ woman recovered.” Q. 1. Whether one in
 fifty recovers after such a job? Q. 2. Whether
 this bad posture of the child, the great suffer-
 ing and danger of the mother, might not have
 been prevented, nay, and the child’s life saved,
 had a skilful Midwoman attended?

CASE II. “ The child was born dead, which
 “ is generally the fate of those children whose
 “ Placenta offers first,” (Madam du Tertre, head
 Midwoman in the Hôtel Dieu at PARIS, and Au-
 thor of one of the best books on this subject, pub-
 lished in 1677. says, the Placenta offering before
 the child, is the most certain sign of its being

dead, *) “ if a proper person be not at hand to deliver them immediately.” Who can be so proper, who is so likely to be in the way as a skilful Midwoman? But as long as they want skill to perform it, the child must die before a Midman can be brought.

CASE III. “ The Midwife informed me, that
 “ the navel-string was thrust into the Vagina, beyond the Os internum, but could not inform
 “ me what other part presented. Many Midwives are ignorant of the method of TOUCHING,
 “ which oftentimes occasions very great misfortunes both to mother and infant, and sometimes
 “ is the death of both, but most commonly of the child; (*Is not destroying one bad enough?*)
 “ which being for some time engaged in a wrong
 “ posture, and the waters gone off, the Uterus is so collapsed, it gives great trouble to the operator, much more pain to the mother, and very
 “ often, as I said before, occasions the death of the infant; all which may be prevented if a
 “ skilful operator is sent for in time.” But much better, if a skilful operatrix attended.

CASE IV. “ I visited a woman who had been
 “ some days in labour, and the Midwife affirmed
 “ that the waters run off the preceding day, and
 “ that she thought a foot presented, but upon my
 “ touching I found it to be the hand bent back-

* Entre les signes qui nous font connoître que l'enfant est mort, le plus certain est lorsque l'arriere-fais est sorti avant lui.

wards in the passage, and protruded out of the inner orifice up to the shoulder."

CASE V. "The Midwife told me that one hand and the arm was slipped down into the Vagina, and that it had laid so for some hours, and the waters, she said, were gone off several hours before the hand was protruded. I rebuked her (as he very well might) for not sending sooner; she alledged, for excuse, that her labour might have succeeded in time: Then I told her that it was impossible, in the posture the child presented, it could ever be born.

CASE VI. "The Midwife told me, that one child had been born, and another remained behind, that the membranes, with the waters, pressed forwards, and were very tight at every pain; but the woman having flooded very much after the birth of the first child, the Midwife could not tell me what part of the second presented. I Blamed the Midwife for not sending for me sooner, &c. Whereupon I passed up my hand, and found the membranes much extended with the waters, and the legs of the infant (which the Midwife knew nothing of, not knowing how to touch) pressed forward into the Vagina."

CASE VII. "Upon examining the Midwife, at my first coming, how the child presented, she answer'd, &c. This convinced me of the Midwife's ignorance in the method and knowledge of touching, and I could wish it was not too common. I have generally found them ignorant in this point, which often occasions the

“ death both of Mother and infant,” (Why did not he do his endeavour to amend this great evil? What signifies finding fault with them in every page without attempting a remedy?) “ and gives
 “ a great deal of pain to the Man-midwife.”

CASE VIII. “ I was sent for to a woman,
 “ whose child was brought out to the shoulders,
 “ where it had stuck for about three hours; the
 “ Midwife not knowing how to draw out the
 “ arms and the head. They had also sent for ano-
 “ ther Midwife before I got there, but she knew
 “ not how to extricate the child out of this snare.
 “ Then I extracted it, but the child was dead,
 “ which could not otherwise be expected, since it
 “ had been so long held in that posture.”

CASE IX. “ I first enquired of the Midwife,
 “ how matters stood in general, but she giving me
 “ no satisfactory account, I descended to particu-
 “ lars. I then asked her if the membranes were
 “ broke, and if so, how long before; to which she
 “ could not give a ready answer, so that I found
 “ her thoroughly Ignorant. I next enquired how
 “ long the navel-string had been fallen down;
 “ Her answer was, several hours. I told her,
 “ i. e. rebuked her, &c.

CASE X. “ I was sent for to a person, whose
 “ child was born, and the Placenta left behind.
 “ Upon my coming there, the Midwife told me
 “ that she had attempted, by all methods she was
 “ mistress of, to fetch it, but could not succeed:
 “ Wherefore, considering the length of time, from
 “ the bringing of the Foetus to my coming, I thought
 “ no more time ought to be lost; and immediate-

“ ly put up my hand, and found the inner orifice
“ so much contracted, that at first I could scarce
“ pass up the ends of my two fore-fingers, but af-
“ ter some time I dilated it so much, that I was
“ able to pass my hand, &c.

“ THIS Case will shew us, what difficulties
“ people often fall into from the Ignorance of the
“ Midwife, in not knowing how to pass their
“ hands as soon as the Foetus is protruded.”

CASE XI. “ I found the Scalp was extended
“ and separated from the Cranium. This I judged
“ to have proceeded from the Midwife’s too rudely
“ handling the head.”

CASE XII. “ The Midwife being very igno-
“ norant, was not able to give me a satisfactory
“ account of the case. I found the Labia Pudendi
“ very much swell’d, &c. wherefore I rebuked the
“ Midwife, telling her, that when she had done
“ all the mischief she could, then she persuaded
“ them to send for me: This is a common fault
“ amongst them, not being willing to have
“ further help, ’till matters are come to the last
“ extremity.”

CASE XIII. “ I thereupon passed up my hand
“ into the Vagina, and found the parts somewhat
“ swell’d, by the Midwife’s too rudely handling
“ them.”

CASE XIV. “ Upon passing my hand, I
“ found the Midwife had been too busy, for
“ the arm was sunk low, and much swell’d; not
“ knowing better, she had endeavoured to bring
“ it away in the posture it presented; whereupon
“ I Rebuked her, telling her, that by her so doing

“ she had made bad work, and shew’d her, that
 “ it was almost (*he might have said altogether*)
 “ impossible to bring it away in the posture it
 “ came in.”

CASE XV. “ This case should be a caution to
 “ Midwives to send for help in time, when a child
 “ comes Footling, and not to venture (unless
 “ they are very skilful) to bring it forwards.”
 But whose fault is it they are not all very skilful?
 Why are they suffered to practise, who are not
 very skilful? Would not Madam du Tertre have
 laughed at any Man, who should have told her,
 she must not venture to bring a child forwards
 when the feet presents? Are not our women as ca-
 pable of being taught as the French women?

CASE XVI. “ I came, and the Midwife be-
 “ ing a Novice in her profession, was not capable
 “ of giving proper directions. She should have
 “ advised the labouring woman to have kept
 “ back, as much as possible, her throws, and not
 “ forced downwards, and she ought to have passed
 “ her hand up, and pressed against the child’s
 “ buttocks, to retain it from slipping down, when-
 “ ever the pains pressed forwards;” (*or, which*
would have been much more to the purpose, put up
her hand, laid hold of the feet, and brought it a-
way by them;) “ but the Midwife neglecting to
 “ give this advice, or to act in this manner, I
 “ found the hip of the infant, with the Scrotum,
 “ sunk low into the Vagina, and strongly engaged
 “ between the bones of the Pelvis, so that I could
 “ not move it by any means.”

CASE XVII. “ I found things very bad, which
“ in a great measure proceeded from the Ignorance
“ of the Midwife ; I therefore rebuked her for her
“ carelessness, &c.

CASE XVIII. “ I enquired of the Midwife,
“ if the waters were broke, how long they had
“ been gone off, and what part presented ; She
“ told me that the waters had been run off some
“ hours, but what part presented she knew not. I
“ soon perceived her Ignorance ; for upon passing
“ my fingers, I found the membranes protruded
“ by the waters beyond the Os internum, into
“ the Vagina, about the bigness of a pig’s blad-
“ der, so that the waters were not gone off, as
“ she said, for some hours, and being Ignorant of
“ the method of touching, it was impossible she
“ could tell what part presented.”

CASE XIX. “ I was call’d about six in the
“ morning, and the Midwife told me, that the
“ Membranes were broke, and the waters flowed
“ off about twelve o’clock at night, and that the
“ first part which presented was the elbow. I Re-
“ buked her for staying so long before she sent
“ for help, and I soon discovered her Ignorance ;
“ for she told me that she had delivered several
“ children where the arm came first, in the same
“ posture, and some were born alive, &c. The
“ child was born dead, which I imagined to pro-
“ ceed from its lying so long in the posture I
“ found it, and the Midwife’s too rudely pulling
“ the arm when it first fell into the passage, in
“ hopes, as she thought, to have brought away
“ the child in the posture it presented. By her

“ violent pulling ſhe had almoſt ſeparated the arm
 “ from the ſhoulder.”

“ THIS is one amongſt the Many inconve-
 “ niences that occur from the ignorance of Mid-
 “ wives: Had I been ſent for as ſoon as the mem-
 “ branes were broke, and before the ſhoulder, by
 “ reiterated pains, was ſo ſtrongly locked between
 “ the bones of the Pelvis, moſt of my trouble,
 “ and the child’s life might have been ſaved.”
 Undoubtedly! or if ſhe had had ſkill enough to
 have done it herſelf.

CASE XX. “ When I came I found the child
 “ protruded to the hips, which hung out beyond
 “ the Labia Pudendi, the Midwife told me that
 “ the waters run off about an hour before; that
 “ the child preſented with the feet firſt, and that
 “ when ſhe had brought it to the buttocks, it ſtuck
 “ there, nor could ſhe bring it any further. I re-
 “ buked her for not ſending at firſt, when ſhe
 “ found it to preſent in a wrong poſture; but
 “ ſhe in excuſe, as is uſual amongſt them, told me,
 “ that ſhe had brought out many children offering
 “ in that poſture.” (*She muſt indeed have been a*
very ordinary Midwife if ſhe had not.) “ The child
 “ from its having lain ſome time ſo preſſed, was
 “ dead, which, I told her, was very probably ow-
 “ ing to her neglect, in not ſending ſooner, when
 “ ſhe was ſatisfied the child preſented wrong.

CASE XXI. “ Upon examination of the child’s
 “ head, I found a Tumour, about the bigneſs of
 “ a pigeon’s egg, on its upper part, ariſing, as
 “ judged, from the Midwife’s too rudely hand-
 “ ling it, or (*which is much more probable*) it”

“ lying so long locked between the bones.” But it’s their way to haul the Midwomen in, head and shoulders, guilty or not guilty.

CASE XXII. “ I Rebuked the Midwife for
“ not sending sooner, telling her the danger she
“ had exposed the poor woman to by her delay :
“ She in excuse, answered me, that she had never
“ had such an accident before, altho’ she had been
“ a Midwife above eleven years ; however I found
“ she was very ignorant.”

CASE XXIII. “ This case (viz. the Placenta
“ being left behind, occasioned a flooding) should
“ be a caution to all Midwives not to delay send-
“ ing early, and not depend too far on their own
“ skill and experience ; for it’s plain this poor
“ woman died a Martyr to either the Midwife’s
“ Ignorance, or vain Opinion of her own Self-
“ sufficiency, which too much prevails amongst
“ them.

CASE XXIV. “ Passing my hand into the
“ Vagina, I found the arm bent and broke,
“ by the Midwife’s too rudely handling it. The
“ child was born dead, which proceeded, as I
“ judged, from its long lying in so uneasy a
“ posture, and from the Midwife’s Ignorance, in
“ not knowing how to keep up the arm, &c.”

CASE XXV. “ Men-midwives frequently find
“ great difficulty in passing their hand into the
“ womb, when, from the Ignorance of the Mid-
“ wife, they are obliged to fetch the Placenta after
“ the child has been born some time, the Os inter-
“ num being upon these occasions generally very

“ much contracted.” Pray is not a Midwoman’s hand easier passed at first, than a Midman’s at last.

CASE XXVI. “ One foot presented ; but the Midwife (thinking herself capable of delivering the woman, being in her own opinion very Self-sufficient, altho’ she was very ignorant,) would not at first send for assistance, &c.

CASE XXVII. “ As soon as the Midwife found that the hands presented, she sent for me. This is what Midwives seldom do ;” (*a black swan indeed !*) “ trusting too much to, and depending upon their own Sufficiency, which very often occasions the loss of the child, and sometimes of the mother.”

CASE XXVIII. “ The Midwife’s Ignorance, in not knowing how to pass her hand, occasion’d this uneasiness.”

CASE XXIX. “ This is one among the many misfortunes that attend a Man-midwife, when he is sent for too late, proceeding from the negligence, supineness, ignorance, or self-sufficiency of the Midwife ; which last prevails in most of them, and is very often the occasion of the loss either of the mother or child, or sometimes both.”

CASE XXX. “ The Ignorance of the Midwife, in not knowing how to keep up the womb from being forced before the head so low into the Vagina, was what added so much to my difficulty in delivering this woman.”

CASE XXXI. “ When I came, I found all but the head was protruded beyond the Labia Pudendi, but that stuck above, altho’ the Mid-

“ wife had pulled so strongly, that she had near
“ separated the body from the head. The Mid-
“ wife, being Ignorant, did not take care to turn
“ the child’s face towards the Spine of the mother
“ as the body advanced. However, I brought it
“ out in a minute’s time, this surprized all that
“ were present, because the Midwife had been
“ working above an hour, without making any
“ advance. Had I been there early, I might very
“ probably have saved the life of the child, but
“ Self-sufficiency, join’d with an idle Notion that
“ they suffer in their character if they send for a
“ Man’s assistance, generally prevents most Mid-
“ wives from sending early, by which they too
“ often endanger the lives of both mothers and
“ children, and give no small trouble to the Man-
“ midwife.”

CASE XXXII. “ The Midwife could not fetch
“ the Placenta, for as she was ignorant in the me-
“ thod of passing her hand into the Uterus, up to
“ the body of the Placenta, to examine whether it
“ adhered to it, she had only pulled by the end of
“ the string which hung out, and so had very
“ near broke it close to the Placenta; she had
“ made no Ligature upon the end of the string,
“ therefore a Hemorrhage had ensued, and the
“ woman had lost a great quantity of blood. Mid-
“ wives very often depend too much upon their
“ own judgment, and think themselves Self-suffi-
“ cient, so that they postpone sending for help in
“ time, whereby the poor women become Victims
“ to their Ignorance or Self-conceit.

CASE XXXIII. “ The Child’s arm presented
 “ several hours before I was sent for ; upon which
 “ I rebuked the Midwife for not sending sooner ;
 “ but she, to justify herself, had the Assurance to
 “ to tell me, that she had brought out several
 “ children presenting in that manner ; whereupon I
 “ shewed her the impossibility of it, and advised
 “ her for the future always to send for help, as
 “ soon as she should find the hand to present first,
 “ and not, by pulling the hand, draw it further
 “ down, and engage the shoulder in the passage,
 “ as she had now done.” Pray would it not have
 been much more seasonable advice to have shewn
 her how to pass her hand, and get hold of the
 feet, &c.

CASE XXXIV. “ The Nurse came and told
 “ me the child was born, but the Midwife was
 “ foiled in her attempts to fetch away the Placenta.
 “ I went, and found the Midwife was both igno-
 “ rant of the cause of its being retained, and the
 “ method of passing the hand to extract it ; yet
 “ I brought it away whole in less than half a mi-
 “ nute’s time, which much surprized both the wo-
 “ man and the by-standers, the Midwife having
 “ spent so much time without being able to effect
 “ it.” Sometimes a Man gets more credit by do-
 ing nothing than by a difficult operation !

CASE XXXV. “ The Man-midwife’s being
 “ sent for so late, too often proceeds from the Igno-
 “ rance or Self-sufficiency of the Midwife, (*but*
oftener from the modesty of the women, covetousness,
or real poverty of the men, &c.) “ who either
 “ not knowing how to behave in difficult cases,

“ or fearing she should suffer in her character
“ should she desire assistance, puts off the calling
“ in of a Man-midwife to the last extremity, so
“ that the mother and child too often become vic-
“ tims either to her negligence or ignorance.”

CASE XXXVI. “ The Midwife depending
“ upon her own Sufficiency, (altho’ she was very
“ ignorant) had let the child advance too far,
“ without taking care to turn and bring the face
“ backwards towards the Os Sacrum, and had for
“ some time endeavoured to bring out the head,
“ but to no purpose; wherefore I was at last sent
“ for, and found the parts very dry, and some-
“ what swelled, by the rude Handling of the
“ Midwife.”

CASE XXXVII. “ The woman had been in
“ labour forty-eight hours; the Midwife being
“ very Ignorant, could neither tell me how the
“ Child presented, nor at what time the mem-
“ branes broke, but answered me, according to
“ her dialect, that it was a dry labour.”

CASE XXXVIII. “ The child was brought
“ into the world all but the head, where it had
“ stuck two or three hours before I came; the
“ Midwife being very Ignorant, was not able to do
“ the business herself, nor would she send for assis-
“ tance in time, so that the child was lost, and
“ the mother narrowly escaped.”

CASE XXXIX. “ The Midwife, in attempt-
“ ing to bring away the Placenta, had inverted
“ the Uterus, for I found the whole body of the
“ Uterus, with the Placenta, adhering to it’s Fun-
“ dus, hanging out beyond the Labia Pudendi;

“ I Rebuked the Midwife for not sending
 “ sooner, and told her, that she, thro’ her Ignorance,
 “ was the immediate cause of this woman’s
 “ death. Before I examined her, the Midwife
 “ told me, that the Placenta was partly brought
 “ out, being ignorant that she had also pulled out
 “ the womb, &c.”

CASE XL. “ But the Midwife by pulling the
 “ Navel-string too rudely, had broke it off near
 “ the Placenta, which was left in the womb.
 “ As soon as I came, I passed up my hand, where
 “ I found the Placenta entirely separated from the
 “ Uterus, and partly protruded into the Vagina,
 “ so that I readily brought it away, and in so short
 “ a time, that the people that were present were
 “ greatly surprized. Had the Midwife understood
 “ how to have passed her hand, she might
 “ easily have brought away the burden before;
 “ and for want of this knowledge, some women
 “ fall into violent floodings, whence faintings,
 “ convulsions, and death.” A wonderful operation indeed! But does she deserve the Name of a Midwoman who could not have extracted it as quick as he?

CASE XLI. “ Had I been sent for before the
 “ membranes were broke, the waters passed off,
 “ the arm slipped down, and the back part of the
 “ shoulder so rivetted, I might not only have preserved
 “ the Child, but prevented the Mother’s
 “ suffering so much pain, and have likewise saved
 “ myself much fatigue and trouble.” Without
 doubt!

IT'S too true, that many Midwives are Ignorant of the method of touching," (*and it's as true they might with very little trouble be taught;*) "and therefore are incapable of judging in what manner the Child presents, until an arm, or some other part is protruded into the Vagina, which is often so locked between the bones of the Pelvis, that it is scarce possible to remove it; and too often they depend so much upon their own sufficiency, and delay sending for assistance in time, that both the mother and child, but more frequently the latter, die martyrs to their presumption."

CASE XLII. "I was sent for about two in the morning, the Midwife had delivered the Child about six the evening before, but not being able, notwithstanding all her endeavours, to bring away the Placenta, she at last left the woman, telling her, that it would in time come away, and that she had known it retained fourteen days without any inconveniency; but as this was a doctrine I was a stranger to, and being on the contrary well satisfied that inconveniencies might attend, should it not be speedily drawn away; therefore ———."

CASE XLIII. "The child's arm was slipped out into the Vagina, which, as soon as the Midwife observed, who was first sent for, she proposed that a Man-midwife should be sent for, telling those that were present, that it was not a Midwife's business; whereupon another Midwife was sent for, who pretended to do the work of a Man-midwife, and at first gave them assurances

“ that she would deliver her, but after she had
“ worked upon her for half an hour, or longer,
“ putting her into several postures, as kneeling,
“ standing, &c. she left her in a much worse con-
“ dition than she found her ; for being ignorant of
“ the method of delivery, when a child offered in
“ the manner this did, she truly had endeavoured
“ to draw the child forward in the same posture it
“ presented, whereby she had drawn the hand out,
“ and part of the arm, beyond the Labia Pudendi,
“ and almost separated it at the shoulder. The
“ temerity, joined to the ignorance of this Mid-
“ wife, very much encreased the difficulty of lay-
“ ing her. If I had been sent for in time, I might
“ with much more ease have delivered the woman,
“ and withal have saved the Child. I have meet
“ with some Midwives, who have had the igno-
“ rance and assurance to tell me, that they have
“ deliver’d children thus presenting, without turn-
“ ing and bringing them by the feet.”



In 1733. Mr. Chapman published, “ An Essay on
“ the improvement of Midwifery.” wherein he
compliments the Midwomen as follows.

Preface. “ **I** Was induced to write the following
“ Essay on the improvement of Mid-
“ wifery, because I found that all Books hitherto
“ written on this subject, were calculated more for
“ the instruction of my own sex, than the other.”
This had certainly been a very reasonable induce-
ment, had it not been a mistake. But the fore-men-
tioned Madam du Tertre, says she composed her
book for the use of the Midwives apprentices in the
Hotel Dieu *. Madam Lovys Burgeois, whose
book was translated into English, and published in
London 1698. says, she put it forth for the sole
use of the Midwives. Is it possible these Midwo-
men, and many more who might be mentioned, could
have the instruction of the Midmen chiefly in
view? Why would not he believe their own de-
claration?

PREFACE. “ I have daily, during the space
“ of above twenty years practice, seen many
“ fatal mistakes committed by Midwives,” Pray
what sort of Midwives must these have been,
who committed fatal mistakes every day, for above
twenty years together? Ought they not to have
been restrained from practising? Nay, even punish-
ed by the civil magistrate? — “ which I think

* Composée par Margarite du Tertre, &c. en faveur des
apprentisses sage-femmes dudit Hôtel Dieu.

“ could not have happened had they ever read a
 “ treatise so properly adapted to their capacities,
 “ and at the same time so full and plain, as the
 “ following.” Q. Whether, if they had read
 Madam du Tertre’s little book, they would not
 have found it more properly adapted to their capacities, as full and plain, and her sentiments more accurately expressed ?

“ My greatest aim in it is faithfully to instruct,
 “ and point out to them, those dangerous Rocks
 “ on which many have been cast away ; that they
 “ may either be able to give better Assistance
 “ themselves, or at least to see the danger time
 “ enough to call in superior advice.”

NOTWITHSTANDING this formal declaration, &c. I’m afraid his greatest Aim will appear to be much the same with Dr. Chamberlen’s, viz. to tell the Midwomen when, and in what particular cases, to send for his superior advice ; and not to instruct them how to give better advice themselves.

“ I have met with several Midwives, especially in this Metropolis, that are extremely
 “ well qualified. However, (*well or ill qualified*)
 “ I must beg leave to give them this one piece of
 “ advice, viz. That where any material difficulty
 “ occurs, they would readily, and in time, call in
 “ our assistance ; as when a child presents with it’s
 “ head, but does not, with a proper degree of
 “ pain, fall any lower ; when the posture happens
 “ to be wrong, and consequently the child requires
 “ turning ;” (*May not the posture be wrong, and yet not want turning ?* E. G. *when the feet or hips present. May not the posture be wrong, and the*

Midwoman as able to turn it as any Midman?) “ but
 “ more especially that they would not delay to send
 “ for a Man in case of Floodings, or other threat-
 “ ning Symptoms.”

PRAY can this be called instructing them faithfully, as he proposes in his Exordium? or telling them when to send for superior advice? Is it not plainly, declaring, as the Doctor had done before, that in his opinion, they know no more of the matter, than to receive a Child which comes away, as it were of itself, without any the least difficulty? Would he not, had he designed to have instructed them Faithfully how to give better assistance themselves, explained to them, how, and after what manner, to remove all these difficulties, and threatening Symptoms he supposes, instead of only telling them to send speedily for superior advice? But pray what are the poor Midwomen to do in places where no superior advice, i. e. no Midmen, are to be had? He has made no provision for them, as Dr. Chamberlen did, pag. 5.

AFTER giving his directions when he thinks they should send for superior advice, he first coaxes, and then threatens them, as the Doctor did above.

“ I believe this advice will not be thought im-
 “ pertinent by the most experienced Midwives,
 “ who, by the by, I have ever found most ready
 “ to call in farther assistance; and indeed they
 “ find their account in it; whilst it is quite other-
 “ wise with those, who, from too great an opinion
 “ of their own judgment and abilities, run great

“ hazards, or at the best call us in too late, and so
 “ lose their good name, and justly suffer in their
 “ reputation. The best Midwives send early for
 “ advice upon the appearance of danger and
 “ difficulty; the suffering Fair readily consents
 “ to it, and by this means both lives are saved.”

Pray are not these two speeches both picked out of Dr. Chamberlen's preface? Pray would not the suffering Fair have been much more obliged to her Midwoman, if she had performed the work herself, and thereby saved her both the uneasiness and expence of superior advice?

NAY in the following paragraph, he takes off the mask, and plainly tells them, he has got a Secret which he must keep to himself. Pray is keeping of Secrets consistent with his former declaration, pag. 42. viz. My greatest aim is faithfully to instruct them?

“ WHEN the head presents, and sticks in the
 “ passage, it can only be extracted, with safety to
 “ the child, by a Fillet, or the Forceps. The
 “ former of these I must beg leave to be silent in,
 “ as being entirely an invention of my own,”
 (*sub judice lis est.*) “ nor shall I, I hope, be cen-
 “ sured for my so doing, any more than the Great
 “ Dr. Chamberlen was, for his choosing to conceal
 “ the method, or secret, whereby he could extract
 “ children in this case without hooks, where other
 “ artists are forced to use them.”

WAS there ever such an excuse heard of? Because the Great Dr. Chamberlen acted a very ungenerous part in this affair, therefore Mr. Chapman must be excused for doing just the same thing,

Might he not as well have said, the Doctor had been guilty of Symony, or Sacrilege, and was not punished for it; therefore he might, for that reason, expect the same grace, in case he should take it in his head to commit the same crimes?

IN pag. 71. he says, “ Here I only passed a
“ Fillet over the Head, and thereby delivered her
“ of a living child. This method of extracting
“ with a Fillet is an art known but to very few;
(I doubt not, he’ll find himself as much mistaken in this assertion, as he was when he affirmed, that he was the second Englishman who wrote originally and professedly on this subject; and that all Books hitherto written on this subject were calculated more for the instruction of the men, than of the women, &c.) “ nor should
“ it ever be attempted, but by a very skilful operator.” Such as ———

PAGE 8. he says, “ If the child offers any other
“ part than the head, *be what it will*, the hand is
“ to be passed gently into the womb, the Feet
“ are to be searched for, the child to be turned,
“ and that way to be brought forth.” Pag. 20.
“ A child presenting with it’s head is often to be
“ turned, and delivered with the feet first, in all
“ other postures whatever always with the feet
“ first.”

BUT suppose a Foot, or the Feet, present, what need have we then to pass the hand into the womb to fetch them? And suppose the buttocks present, and are sunk so low in the passage, that they cannot be pushed back without danger; is it not

much easier, safer, and quicker to slip the fingers over the bend of the thigh, or over the *Ossa Iliæ*, and draw it forward in that posture, than to run the risk of forcing them back to look for the feet?

THO' it's plain from these quotations, that Mr. Chapman, notwithstanding his twenty-five years practice, was perfectly unacquainted with this case; yet that good old woman, *Madam du Tertre*, &c. describes it very accurately, viz. that, when the buttocks present low in the passage, the child should be extracted as it offers*.

PAGE 11. “ Sometimes the pain shall be strong
 “ and true, the head of the child very low, and
 “ bearing forcibly down every pain; yet the
 “ mouth of the womb (loth as it were to open)
 “ shall be but very little dilated, even after many
 “ hours pain. E. G. I visited a woman, who had
 “ been many hours in labour, the head of the child
 “ lay in the Vagina, so low in the pains, that the
 “ unskilful Midwife, (who had never touched the
 “ mouth of the womb, which lay more than ordi-
 “ nary backwards) had given hopes of delivery
 “ the very next pain. Here I did no more than

* Les pieds sont les parties par où l'on peut tire l'enfant lors qu'il ne presente pas la Teste la premiere, *excepté quand il se presente en double, qu'on peut le tirer par les fesses.*

Si ce sont les fesses que l'enfant presente, que faut-il faire?

Si d'avanture l'enfant est embarrassé au passage, & que les cuisses soient couchées sur son ventre, & les jambes sur la poitrine, il faut laisser venir l'enfant en cette posture; mais s'il est élevé au dessus des Os Pubis, il faut aller chercher un pied, &c.

“ with my finger dilate and cast the part (viz. the
 “ mouth of the womb) back, and so in a few mi-
 “ nutes opened the door, and released the little
 “ prisoner.” Pray would not Madam du Tertre’s
 finger have released the prisoner as soon and as safely
 as his did? That there has been great difficulties oc-
 casioned by the lothness of the mouth of the womb
 to open, viz. in elderly women, when callous,
 schirrous, &c. no Man will will deny. But there
 is not the least sign of any difficulty or lothness of
 the mouth of the womb to open, in this case
 Mr. Chapman brings, to prove that the pains may
 be strong and true, &c. and yet the mouth of the
 womb, loth as it were to open, shall be very little
 dilated. The difficulty in his case consisted only
 in the unnatural situation of the Os Tincæ, which
 prevented the head’s pressing directly on it, other-
 wise it would have opened with all imaginable ease
 and speed; as you see it did when he touched it
 with his finger.

PAGE 29. — “ Dipping the infant’s hand, when
 “ hanging out of the womb, in cold water, rub-
 “ bing it with ice, or touching it with a wet cloth,
 “ which some ignorant Midwives practice, &c.”
 Pray how many Midwomen did he ever know
 guilty of these fooleries?

PAGE 30. “ I once delivered a woman, where
 “ the child’s arm had been eighteen hours in the
 “ world, and much swelled by the long time, and
 “ Ignorance of the Midwife, who pulled violently
 “ at the arm every pain; not knowing that it was
 “ impossible to deliver a full grown infant by that
 “ method.”

PAGE 40. “ Or perhaps pull down the Fundus
 “ Uteri, and so invert the Matrix ; which is a
 “ case I have several times met with, after rough
 “ and ignorant Midwives ; which may serve as
 “ a warning to others how they pull at the
 “ string, &c.”

PAGE 41. He says, “ That most Midwives
 “ tie the string at too great a distance from the
 “ child’s belly, which occasions Ruptures, &c.
 “ afterwards. It is very certain however, that
 “ more than two inches of the string itself from
 “ the Navel is unnecessary ; whereas I have com-
 “ monly known Midwives leave five or six.”

HERE Mr. Chapman again fancies he has told us a secret, but if you look into that good old woman, Madam du Tertre, you’ll find these words, “ *Elle nouera le cordon, ou ombilic à*
 “ *deux doigts du nombril de l’enfant, &c.* i. e. she must tie the string two inches from the child’s Navel. Where now is the mighty secret he makes such a fuss about ? Is it any thing more than an old woman told us before he was born ?

PAGE 49. “ Few Midwives are sufficiently apprised of this unhappy Symptom.” viz. A violent flooding.

I differ so far from Mr. Chapman in this assertion, that in my opinion, there is not one Midwoman in a thousand who knows not, that a violent flooding will either occasion abortion or death.

PAGE 56. “ I was called to a woman, who had
 “ lain ten or twelve hours with the head of the
 “ child born ; but the Midwife being Ignorant of

“ the pains going off, suffered the infant to stop
“ there.”

CASE of a violent Flooding, pag. 64. “ One
“ of her friends was of opinion that she ought to
“ be delivered ; but the Midwife resisted, and
“ said, that she never yet had forced a labour,
“ and that she would not begin then ; terrifying
“ the unhappy sufferer, by telling her, that if she
“ was delivered she would certainly die.” And
so she did, because she was not delivered.

PAGE 69. “ I was called to a woman whose
“ Vagina came down before the head of the child,
“ hanging far out of the body. This by an igno-
“ rant Midwife, was taken for a water, and ac-
“ cordingly she had scratched and endeavoured to
“ break the Membrane, as she foolishly thought it.”

PAGE 81. “ I attended a woman who was deli-
“ vered by natural pains in about two hours ;
“ upon passing my hand, *as my constant*
“ *practice is*, immediately to fetch the Pla-
“ centa, I found another child, which I soon
“ brought away, with two distinct Placenta's.”

Pray is it not every body's practice to pass their
hand immediately, and examine if there is any
more children, and if no more to fetch the Pla-
centa? What then is there extraordinary in it,
that it deserves to be noted so emphatically, viz. *as*
my constant practice is? Did not Madam du Ter-
tre, &c. do so *.

* Elle doit prendre garde qu'il n'y ait point un autre en-
fant avant de travailler à délivrer la femme, &c. Et sur tout
se souvenir de ne jamais délivrer la femme, que première-
ment l'on ait remarqué qu'il n'y ait point un autre enfant.

“ Now had an ignorant Midwife been concerned in this case, who had only taken the first child and After-birth, the last would probably have been left behind ; ” (but suppose an experienced Midwife had been concerned, how would it have been then? Was there any such great Feat done by him in this case, which she could not have done as well?) “ and so either violent floodings, or a bad fever would have ensued ; and, as the woman was before very ill and extremely weak, it would very likely have cost her Life.” Thus you see, let a Midwoman be present, or not present, guilty, or not guilty, it’s all one, they must be hauled in, and condemned, for an imaginary, as well as for a real fault.’

PAGE 83. “ I was sent for in great haste to a woman in labour, but on my arrival found her dead. I conjectured she had died by flooding, but was told she had not ; however, the Midwife told me, that the After-birth stuck so fast in one part, that she was not able with all her strength to take it from her. Upon which I desired to see the corps, and found, to my great surprise, that the Matrix was inverted, and hung down between her thighs, with the Placenta adhering to its Fundus, which I separated before the Midwife, and several Matrons there present, and convinced them all of the dismal accident. This woman had it seems a very good and easy labour of the child ; but then the Midwife pulled hard at the Navel-string, and so brought down the Matrix, which as soon as she could take hold of, she did ; and then

“ pulled with fresh violence, and not being deter-
“ red by the loudest cries, the poor miserable wo-
“ man fell into Convulsions and Deliquiums, and
“ soon expired. This was a young healthy Mo-
“ ther cut off in the bloom of life, and cast into
“ the cold arms of Death, just as she was about
“ to clasp her First-born in her own.” A shock-
ing case indeed!

PAGE 84. “ I have been called to three women,
“ where I found the Vagina quite broke through
“ in the back part, by the Midwife’s rudely thrust-
“ ing up her hand, in order to come at the open-
“ ing of the womb, which in all these three hap-
“ pened to lie very forwards, under the Os Pubis.
“ Two of these died in a few days after, and
“ the other recovered, beyond my expectation.”

PAGE 86. “ I was sent for to a gentlewoman,
“ who kept a tavern in Ipswich. The child was
“ Dead, and the mother Flooding. She was at-
“ tended by no less than two Midwives and a Sur-
“ geon, just then set out in the profession. When
“ they had all used their endeavours, to little or
“ no purpose, I was called in, and delivered her
“ in a minute. I left her under the care of
“ Dr. Beeston, but she died in six or seven days.”

MR. Chapman indeed has not told this young Gentleman’s name, but has described him so well that I doubt there’s not a Man in all Ipswich, nor perhaps twenty miles round, but can tell who he means. What injury might not such a tale do a worthy young fellow? but how consistent this story is with the advice he gives to others, pag. 114. I leave the reader to determine.

PREFACE. “ But the dignity of this art will
 “ appear to every person in a much more advan-
 “ tageous light, if we reflect on the LEARNING
 “ of the professors of it.” E. G. Dr. C———,
 Dr. M———, Dr. W———, Dr. G———,
 Dr. A———, Dr. B———, Dr. Gregoire
Tota notus in urbe! &c.

“ THE improvements these GREAT Men
 “ have made in this art, have effectually wiped
 “ away that load of Slander and Ignominy with
 “ which this profession was formerly branded.”

PRAY have not ninety-nine in a hundred of these
 GREAT Men he talks of, kept their improvements
(if they ever made any) to themselves? Don't most of
 them now, as well as He, pretend to have Secrets?
 Don't they endeavour to puzzle, at the same time
 they make a shew of instructing others? Don't they
 very seldom, if ever, consult together, as they al-
 ways ought to do in difficult or dangerous cases?
 What can hinder them, except the fear of discover-
 ing the insignificancy of their pretended secrets, or
 their real ignorance? Nay, Dr. Chamberlen himself
 pag. 91. blames them for this, and very justly observes,
 even with some regret, this great fault in practi-
 tioners. “ It were to be wished rather than hoped for,
 “ that practitioners, in difficult and dangerous cases,
 “ (whereof they have no certain knowledge) would
 “ consult, and not destroy one or more, by under-
 “ taking what they cannot well perform, or dis-
 “ courage patients from sending for other help
 “ or advice; putting life in balance with their
 “ reputation.”

I very readily agree with the Doctor, that practitioners in Midwifery should consult together, when any thing very difficult or dangerous occurs, with the same freedom and unreservedness as in other cases of Surgery, viz. Luxations, Fractures, Mortifications, &c. Wherein consists the disreputation of consulting in this, more than in any other case? Are there not more lives concerned in these, than in any other cases? Is not consulting the only way of preserving, instead of losing their reputation, and the patients lives?

IN 1735. Mr. Chapman published a Treatise on Midwifery; in the preface to which he says, “ I own I had some assistance in regard to the diction; and did not send my papers to the press until that was revised and corrected.”

CAN he be a tolerable judge of diction himself, who suffers his friend to write Woman-Midwife, Women-Midwives, &c. Words used by no body, except the learned Dr. Maubray, who Mr. Chapman or his Corrector calls, “ that ingenious and laborious author.” But to give a specimen, *first*, of his Ingenuity: he begins a large book, which he calls the whole art of Midwifery, &c. Thus, Sect. I. cap. 1. Of God, cap. 2. Of Nature, cap. 3. Of Man, cap. 4. Of the Soul. Sect. II. cap. 1. Of Maidenhood, cap. 2. Of Virginity, cap. 3. Of the Virgin-disease, cap. 4. Of Love, cap. 5. Of Copulation, &c. Now! pray what relation, what connection, is there between these out-of-the-way subjects and Midwifery? Might he not as properly have introduced what he had to say about Midwifery, with an account of Rat-catching, Rabbit-breeding, or Sow-gelding?

PRAY does it shew most Ingenuity or Stupidity, to jumble several subjects together, which have no manner of relation, connection, or analogy with one another, or with his main design, by way of introduction? *Secondly*, of his Laboriousness: I cannot but own that every page is laboured, but in such a manner, that he often forgets, in less than a leaf, what he intended to account for or prove, and leaves you as much in the dark as he found you: and that he has spent a great deal of labour upon collecting from Romances, Popish legends, &c. a parcel of idle, groundless, nay ridiculous tales, and tells them with all imaginable gravity, and seeming earnestness; and very seriously undertakes to account for unaccountables. E. G. Page 58. he tells us, “ St. Austin” (and who would not believe a popish saint, tho’ he asserted that he saw a Rabbit kitten Monkeys, Pole-cats, or Foxes? “ writes of a Man who could sweat “ whenever he had a mind. And I have like- “ wise known some persons my self, who could “ weep and shed abundance of tears at will and “ pleasure. *Utrum horum?* “ Yea, and farther yet, “ many learned Authors *testify, by divers exam- “ ples, that Women have been turned into Men ; “ which some attribute to the force of imagina- “ tion. But, tho’ I am no ways to question the “ veracity of what so many excellent men have “ confirmed ;” (Is there any other Man living, who

* Pontan, Amat. Lusitan, &c.

would not question them?) “ yet I think we may
 “ find more probable reasons for’t, than all the
 “ Powers of IMAGINATION. Whereof I shall
 “ mention that which seems to be the most ra-
 “ tional cause, viz. an extinguished or latent
 “ FORMING FACULTY, * which (however) some-
 “ times has Exerted itself again, like the BLAZ-
 “ ING of a raked or resuscitated Fire.”

I hope Mr. Chapman will explain this ingenious
 account of this incredible phænomenon in his next
 edition, for, I must own, as it stands, it’s far be-
 yond my comprehension, and that the account he
 gives of it is so very sublime, that it rather puzzles
 than instructs me. Pray what does he mean by
 “ an extinguished or latent forming Faculty?”
 And wherein lies the analogy between that, and
 “ the Blazing of a raked or resuscitated Fire?”

HE has been so justly and tartly reprimanded for
 the absurd and false account of the Sooterkin, de
 Suyger, or Sucker, by the late reverend and learned
 Dr. Archibald Mitchel, † *Utriusque Medicinæ Doctor*,
 that I shall only add one observation to what he has
 advanced, viz. that Dr. Maubray had the assurance
 to assert, in the fore-mentioned book, pag. 376. that
 he had talked to some of the most learned Men,
 in the Seven Provinces, about this Sooterkin, de
 Suyger, or Sucker, and that they ingenuously told
 him, that it was so common a thing, that scarce
 one woman in three escaped this kind of strange

* Here. Sax. prælect. pract. part iii. cap. 30.

† The Sooterkin dissected, 1726.

birth ; nay ! and that his own practice among them afterwards confirmed it, so much, that he always as much expected the thing de Suyger, as the child itself ! Is it not surprising that he did not catch a few of these little Dæmons or Moodiwarps as he calls them, and keep them in a cage, rat-trap, or in some other more curious mechanical contrivance, for the conviction of Dr. Mitchel, and other infidels ? Pray does such a writer as this deserve the epithets of ingenious and laborious ? Wherein does his ingenuity appear ? wherein is his labour of any use ? Pray can any thing expose a Man's judgment more than laughing or hissing, praising or finding fault, in the wrong place ?

WHAT a splutter Mr. Chapman makes, pag. 59. about his breaking the Membranes of the second child, in order to bring it away by the feet, as if he had discovered something new. And then he tells us, he's not a little pleased to find Dr. Maubray agree with him exactly in this point, and advise this manner of proceeding, in almost the same words used by him on this occasion, tho' the words used by Dr. M. are very different from his, nay, they are perfect nonsense. E. G. He says, I would fetch the second child by the feet, in case the second Flooding is not yet over, &c. Pray what does he mean by the second flooding ? Mr. Chapman answereth and saith, that by the second flooding he must mean the flowing of the waters ; but who, besides he, ever called the flowing of the waters a flooding ? Every body else means a dangerous flux of blood by a flooding. But if he had looked back as far as Madam du Tertre, &c. he would have

found that very method strongly recommended, and much better, shorter, and clearer express'd, than either he or Dr. Maubray have done it *.

HE makes again, pag. 65. as great a rout about extracting the Placenta, for three pages together, as if no body had known any thing of the matter before he taught them. E. G. " The Placenta is
" never to be left to be shut up in the womb,
" whether the labour has been natural or not; and I
" have the satisfaction of finding Dr. Maubray
" recommending this practice." A great satisfaction indeed! But pray can he find any body who does not recommend it, as well as he and Dr. Maubray?

HE censures Dionis pag. 68. for saying, " That
" the Placenta in an Abortion of two or three
" months, may be left to come away of itself.
Which undoubtedly may very often be done without any danger, tho' it's certainly safer to bring it away at first, if sent for in time; but if

* Pag. 96. Si elle remarque qu'il y a un autre enfant, elle nouera le cordon, ou ombilic à deux doigts du nombril de l'enfant, & fera une seconde ligature à quatre doigts au dessus de la premiere ligature; puis elle coupera le cordon entre les deux; apres qu'elle aura osté & donné l'enfant à quelqu'un, elle portera la main dans la matrice pour percer les membranes, dans les quelles le second enfant est contenu: S'il vient mal, elle ira chercher les pieds, & si vient la teste la premiere, elle pressera la mere de faire quelque effort; car il est facile à l'enfant de sortir les passages estant ouverts: Mais si la femme est foible, & qu'elle manque de courage, & que l'enfant soit encore haut dans la matrice, elle ira chercher les pieds comme si venoit mal, cela se pouvant faire sans aucun accident, pourveu que ce soient des personnes qui sçachent leur mestier.

the child has been come away some time, I should give myself no trouble about it till a flooding appeared. Because the irritation caused by the fingers, when the Os Tincæ is almost closed, may be more apt to cause an inflammation, flooding, &c. than letting it alone; nay, I knew it once left whole (by the obstinancy of the mother, who could by no means be persuaded to have it taken away,) between the fourth and fifth month, and yet she did very well. Nay that experienced Midman Mr. Giffard, is also of the same opinion, “Of two evils the greater
 “ought to be shunned, there being less danger
 “in leaving part of the After-birth, which will
 “very often, without doing any great harm,
 “come away with the Lochia, than in using any
 “force in extracting it, by which we very often
 “hurt the womb.” Pray can he imagine Mr. Dionis did not do the needful, in case a flooding did succeed?

BUT he finds no fault with him, where I think he richly deserves it, when he says, * the Os Tincæ in a violent flooding, is more conveniently dilated with an instrument, and the false conception, &c. extracted with a pair of Forceps, than by the fingers. If this is not finding fault in the wrong place, pray what is? Is it not a most dangerous, nay, and unnecessary practice?

PAGE 171. He gives one instance of a child he delivered with the buttocks foremost. But pray

* Paris edit. lib. ii. cap. 15.

how does this quadrate with what he says, pag. 11. of the same book ; “ If the child offers any other
 “ part than the head, the hand is to be passed in-
 “ to the womb, the feet searched for, the child to
 “ be turned, and brought forth by them.”

PAGE 174. “ I was unwilling to have recourse
 “ to art.” (Is it not the art of Midwifery, which
 the Midwomen have been taught, the only thing
 which distinguishes them from other women? Are
 not they obliged to make use of their art at every
 labour they are called to? Why then does he so
 often make use of the words Art and Artists, and
 only apply them to himself or some other Man?
 Won't any one who reads Madam du Tertre's little
 book be convinced, that she has shewn more art
 and better diction, than either Dr. Maubray, or
 ———. Does her being a woman make it improp-
 er to say, she had recourse to art, or that she was
 an artist.) “ But after two hours trial, finding no
 “ advantage from her pains, I was forced to it. I
 “ first made an attempt with the Fillet; but the
 “ young creature's pulse began to sink, and her
 “ pains falling off a little, I chose to take the most
 “ Speedy, as well as the most secure Method,
 “ viz. the Forceps, and delivered her in about
 “ two Minutes.

PRAY is not this fairly owning, that the
 Fillet (he makes a secret of pag. 17.) is neither so
 Speedy, nor so Secure a Method as the Forceps?
 Why then does he keep it a secret? To what pur-
 pose can he do it? When he, at the same time
 confesses the Forceps, (which he has given us a

print of, tho' a very indifferent one, and nothing new therein,) to be preferable.

THEN he goes on in the same page 17. and says, " But I have been told, since the first publication of my Essay, that the Fillet is so far from being an invention of mine, that it is generally, or at least very frequently used. I own indeed, that it may be commonly used in turning a child, by securing one foot with it, as I have directed ; but do not believe the manner of passing it over the head to be so universally known and practised.

DAVENTER, in the appendix to his *Ars Obstetricandi*, published in 1701. describes and very much approves of a Fillet's being passed over the child's head in order to extract it. And I myself have seen eight or ten different sorts of them, contrived and used by different practitioners. Pray was not Dr. Birch's Fillet put up to be sold for 500*l*. by the late excellent Surgeon Mr. Jos. Symond's? Has not Dr. Sandys had one for many years? Nay I hardly know one who has not, in one shape or other, How then can Mr. Chapman expect to fob us off with saying, that all other people's are for the foot, and his only for the head? Must not he think us very weak, and very illiterate if we believed him? Might he not with as much reason assert, that he or Dr. Maubray were the first inventors of breaking the Membranes of the second child, in order to bring it away presently by the feet ; or of directing the Placenta to be extracted before the Uterus closed upon it, or of tying the Navel-string within two inches of the child's

belly, &c. all which have been told us by Madam du Tertre.

THE N he winds up the foresaid Girl's case, pag. 174. with these solemn reflections on his own good conduct, and the mishaps which would have befall'n this poor woman had not he been with her. " Had a Midwife been called to this person some days, not to say weeks, before, when her pains and complaints began to vary, and (as is common with young and unexperienced Midwives, put her upon her labour too early, which I carefully avoided) considering the position of the child, what must have been the consequence?" (*Something very frightful undoubtedly!*) And even had a Man been called, who was unacquainted with the use of that noble and safe instrument the Forceps, he must have destroyed the child."

BUT suppose a knowing Midwoman, such a one as Madam du Tertre, &c. had been with her, in the room of his young and unexperienced one, would not she as carefully have avoided putting her upon her labour before her time, as Mr. Chapman did? And supposing a Man had been there who had no Forceps about him, but was well acquainted with the use of Daventer's, Birch's, or any other Fillet, except Mr. Chapman's Secret, (which he owns himself, pag. 59. would not do,) could not he have extracted the child with as much safety as he did with the Forceps?

MR. Chapman, pag. 95. tells us the following story: " A fine young lady, in labour with her first child, was seiz'd with a flooding, and the

“ arm of the infant presented. She imme-
 “ diately sent for a Physician, who had lately
 “ taken upon him to practise Midwifery, BUT
 “ WAS SO LITTLE ACQUAINTED WITH THE
 “ ART, THAT HE NEGLECTED THE ONLY
 “ THING NECESSARY IN THAT CASE, VIZ. a
 “ speedy delivery by turning the child; and em-
 “ ployed restraining or styptick medicines. Af-
 “ ter some hours another gentleman was called in,
 “ but the lady was now very much weakened, and
 “ the artist, apprehensive of her expiring under his
 “ hands, or immediately after delivery, which in-
 “ deed too often happens, would make no at-
 “ tempt, but abandoned her to her approaching
 “ fate. She lived some hours after, and then
 “ died. I’m persuaded it will be allowed by the
 “ best judges, that, had she been immediately deliver-
 “ ed, her life might have been saved. I received
 “ this account from a worthy matron, who was
 “ present during the whole time.”

MR. Giffard mentions a case of the same kind,
 therefore I choose to place them together. “ I
 “ was sent for about five in the afternoon, to a
 “ woman at Battersea, who had been deliver-
 “ ed of three children about three the preced-
 “ ing morning, but the Midwife had left the after-
 “ burthens, (*monstrous and fatal ignorance*) hav-
 “ ing broke off two of the strings; she not know-
 “ ing how to pass her hand to fetch them, and being
 “ called away to another woman, had left her in this
 “ condition: (*Could a Turk believe there were any
 wholesome laws in a country where such barbari-
 ties were not severely punished?*) Another Mid-

“ wife was sent for, but she would not attempt to
 “ bring them away, fearing the woman should
 “ die, and her death be laid to her charge ; (*poor*
 “ *unhappy woman!*) so when I came I found the
 “ woman in the agonies of death, her whole mass
 “ of blood being drained away by the continual
 “ flooding, (*viz. for fifteen hours*) I immediately
 “ brought them away, but the woman’s blood
 “ and spirits were so much exhausted before, that she
 “ expired in less than an hour afterwards ; so that
 “ this woman fell a sacrifice to the ignorance of one
 “ Midwife, and the timidity of the other, for had
 “ the burthens been brought away at first, before
 “ she had lost so much blood, she had been in no
 “ danger of dying. They had sent for one Dr.
 “ ———, at ———, who instead of advising
 “ them to fetch the burthens away, or coming
 “ himself to do it, had sent forcing Medicines,
 “ which would of consequence encrease the flood-
 “ ing, and so hastened her death. The three chil-
 “ dren were all born alive and well.” Who can
 read this case without being shocked at it?

HAS any of the fore-mentioned women com-
 mitted greater Blunders than these Doctors? Is it
 not evident from these stories, that the Doctor or
 Apothecary Midmen, are sometimes as ignorant as
 the lowest class of Midwomen? Pray where could
 these Doctors have been admitted to their degrees?
 Must it not have been in some popish country,
 where orthodoxy is reckoned a better recommenda-
 tion, than the knowledge of diseases? Where visit-
 ing chapels three or four times a day is thought
 more conducive to the making a good Physician,

than frequenting the hospitals as often? Don't this shew that we want a proper school for Midmen as well as for Midwomen?

MR. Chapman, pag. 31. tells us of "A woman who
 " had been twice or thrice delivered by a Man, of
 " children that always presented with the head, which
 " the operator took a fatal freedom with, viz. using
 " a hook," (Pray how could he tell, who was not
 present, but that all these children were dead? That
 he was obliged to use a hook, because of the largeness of the child's head, shoulders, or belly? That he was forced to destroy the child to save the mother? Wherein then consists this fatal freedom he talks of? Ought not a Man to be very sure before he accuses another after this manner?) " at last
 " sent for me." I think he's much to blame for not telling us, whether this fatal freedom taker was a Doctor or an Apothecary Midman?

THAT excellent Anatomist Dr. Nicholls, in his *Compendium Anatomicum*, published in 1733. and republished 1736. has the following remarkable passage, "*In omni malo situ, ut & in rebus desperatis, pedibus extrahetur Fœtus.*" i. e. In every wrong posture, as also in desperate cases the child is to be extracted by the feet.

Now, pray is it not a wrong posture when the buttocks present? And yet the child may be brought away with great safety both to it and the mother when they present, without looking for the feet, vid. pag. 46, 58, &c. The case may also be very desperate, and yet not possible to bring the child away by the feet. E. G. When the head is too large and sticks in the passage, when the head is born,

but sticks because of the largeness of the shoulders, or when the belly is full of water, as in the case mentioned pag. 14. &c.

DR. C——— writes thus, 1720. “ *Cum Vagina sit*
 “ *nimis angusta, vel pelvis naturaliter parva, vel*
 “ *Fœtus solito major, una nonnunquam continua rima*
 “ *seu scissura ab vulva ad anum, fit, quod valde pe-*
 “ *riculosum est & mulierem, si evadat, in posterum*
 “ *sterilem reddit.*”

THIS case I have found, by repeated experience, not to be at all dangerous, in persons otherwise healthy ; and am satisfied that it will contribute as little to making them barren as a broken leg.

Deductions from the premisses .

THUS you see what a number of children have been lost, what a number of women have suffered great and needless pains, and have been brought into the utmost danger of their lives, nay have actually fallen Martyrs, Sacrifices, or Victims, as they term it, in the very flower of their age, to the imprudence and ignorance of Midwomen, nay, and Doctor Midmen, vid. pag. 62, 63. and these only from the accounts of what fell under the cognisance of two Midmen, viz. Giffard and Chapman. But pray how high may we suppose the account might have risen, if every Midman, &c. who practised in England, since the end of the last century, i. e. thirty-five years back, had also made up their accounts ? What a black list would it be ? Is it not shocking to think on't ? Are not these ac-

counts of their blunders enough to frighten the women from ever trusting to a Midwoman any more? But if the Midwomen in, and about London and Westminster, are so generally and so grossly ignorant, as those gentlemen have represented them, what must they be in the country? What havock must they make among his Majesty's subjects? What numbers of fine women and children must daily fall a sacrifice by the very hands, *prol. dolor!* from whom they expected relief? Is not this a melancholy and deplorable case? Is it not an evil which demands both a speedy and an effectual remedy? Can any thing better deserve the attention even of the Legislature itself? But granting their ignorance to be as great as they suppose, pray will calling of names, such as Rude, Rough, Negligent, Ignorant, Foolish, Novice, Obstinate, Over-confident, Supine, Unskilful, Conceited, Self-sufficient, Errand Midwives, &c. or Rebuking, Blaming, Checking, and Reprimanding, &c. these gentlemen have so liberally bestowed upon them, make them more prudent or judicious, or enable them in any degree to give better assistance themselves, and thereby put a stop to the great evil they complain of so loudly? Surely no!

PRAY have these Gentlemen Complainants proposed any other method, to prevent for the future, this calamitous, this dismal, this inhuman practice, except to send for one of them, upon every little trifling difficulty? Is not this making mere Nurses of the Midwomen, and ——— of their patients? Is it not telling them plainly, that they neither do, nor ever shall know any more of the matter, by

any information they will give them, than (*what they knew before*) just to receive a child which drops into their hands? Nay it's much worse, it's making mere Jack-calls of them; i. e. They must hunt about in search of Their prey, and then send for Them to devour it. But these gentlemen's scheme, of being consulted upon every little difficulty, is, and always will be, impracticable in many cases, even in London itself, and much more in the country, even tho' the Midwomen were as much at their Beck as they themselves could desire? 1. Because some women are so unseasonably modest, or obstinate, that they cannot be prevail'd on, on any account, to admit of a Midman, until it's too late. 2. Because some husbands are as much against having their wives laid by Men, as they themselves are. 3. Because some people are so very covetous, that they will not suffer a Midman to be sent for soon enough to do any good. 4. Because some people are so very poor, that they cannot bear the expence of a Midman. 5. Because some Midmen are so very inhuman, that they won't touch a poor woman, except they are paid first, vide pag. 24. 6. Because sometimes Midmen cannot be got in time, &c. What would They have the poor Midwomen do in these cases? Are They to be blamed for other people's Tempers, Opinions, or Inhumanity? Tho' They have been often to blame, yet they are not always blameable. What then must we do? Must we always employ Men? Or continue to stand idly by, and suffer our wives and children to be thus cruelly massacred by ignorant and unhallowed hands? Must we never at-

tempt the cure of this Malignant and most Pesteilient distemper, by which such numbers have been, and daily are destroyed, because no body has hitherto endeavoured to do it? No! We must apply an effectual remedy, if it can be found, Charity Humanity, and the strongest ties of nature (viz. the preservation of our wives and children) oblige us to do it.

BUT how? What Method will, or can, effectually prevent the disasters complained of above, for the future? The ignorance of the Midwomen is, undoubtedly the principal, if not the sole cause of these dire events; and their unskilfulness is certainly owing to their want of a proper education, and not to their want of capacity, and consequently is more their misfortune than their fault. Therefore, the only method by which this fatal distemper can be cured, and all its bad consequences for the future avoided, is to put it in the power of the Midwomen to qualify themselves thoroughly, and at a moderate expence, in all the parts of their most necessary office, before ever they are permitted to practise: (And then they, who did not readily embrace the opportunity, would not only be deservedly blamed, but ought to be punished by the civil Magistrate:) E. G. They ought to be well instructed, 1. In the knowledge of the nature and situation, not only of the parts of generation in women, but also of the circumjacent parts which may be affected by, or may obstruct delivery; and with the nature and use of the Membranes, Waters, Navel-string, Placenta, &c. of the Foetus. 2. In the cause and cure of these disorders and accidents, peculiar to women during their

pregnancy, and after their delivery. 3. In the art of Touching, (to the want of which, most of the blunders complained of above, were owing. viz. leaving the Placenta behind, Dragging the womb inside out, Mistaking the arm for the foot, the Hips for the Head, Thrusting their fingers through the Vagina, &c.) whereby they can not only tell the present state of the woman at any time of her gestation, but also even prevent many of the difficult and dangerous labours (being always sent for so early) which now happen; E. G. The membranes being broke, and often before, they may certainly tell by the touch, what parts present, then supposing it is the navel-string, hips, hand, or any other part but the head, advancing in a right posture, they may at first appearance (the parts being then so moistened by the waters) be easily put back, the feet sought for, and the child extracted by them: Whereas, when they have not art and judgement enough to take this favourable opportunity, nature herself offers; the woman is spent with fruitless pains, the child advances in a wrong posture, or too slowly, if in a right one, her body grows dry, the womb collapses, and contracts so closely about it, and the child is so jammed, and locked between the bones of the Pelvis, that it cannot be extracted without the greatest difficulty and danger, by the most dexterous hands. And how many fall under, or soon after such operations, the fore-mentioned cases abundantly shew. Pray is it not much easier and safer to prevent such blunders, than to undertake the cure of them afterwards? 4. In the most rational Methods of delivering women, at

any time of their gestation, of a child, false conception, or mole, with judgement, dexterity, and expedition. 5. In the knowledge of those cases where instruments are absolutely necessary, that they may send directly for a Surgeon, instead of fatigueing the mother, and endangering both, by needless delays and fruitless attempts. 6. In the method of using them themselves, where no Surgeon can be had. *Prestat anceps quam nullum adhibere remedium.*

To which method of qualifying themselves, I doubt not the Midwomen will object and say, that they would readily be at any reasonable expence and fatigue, to be so thoroughly instructed in all the parts of their office, as I propose: but it's not in their power, they have no opportunity of following this scheme. How can they do it? The Midwomen cannot, and the Midmen won't instruct them. What then would you have them do? Can you blame these good women then, for doing as well as they can, nay as well as their Mistresses who taught them the little they do know, tho' not so well as they would, had they had the opportunities of being instructed, as above-mentioned? To which I answer, I own their Plea to be just and reasonable, until these opportunities are put in their power.

THE Midmen, I doubt not, will object and say, that the Midwomen want both Capacity and Strength (instruct them as ye please) to perform what I propose. To which I reply, That this is only an artful and groundless insinuation, and do affirm, (*ore rotundo, plenis buccis*) that it's not want

of Capacity, Docility, Strength, or Activity, but merely want of fit and full instructions in all the parts of their office, which disables them to perform it, in all cases (excepting where instruments are necessary) with as much Ease, Safety, and Expedition, as the most dexterous Midman; which is evident to a demonstration, from the successful practice of the Midwomen in the Hotel Dieu at Paris, (the best school for Midwomen now in Europe) where they hardly ever want the assistance of a Surgeon, excepting where instruments must be used: Which is frankly owned by Monsieur de la Motte, who says, that during the space of six months, wherein he attended amongst the women in the Hotel Dieu at Paris, there was but one hard labour happened where there was the least occasion for a Surgeon, and even that was at last finished by nature; and in that time there were above four hundred delivered, almost all by the Apprentices, and very rarely by Madam du Tertre, who was then first Midwife. I have also been informed lately, by a correspondent at Paris, that there are now about two thousand women delivered in that hospital, *communibus annis*, without the assistance of a Surgeon, excepting as above. Would not any person then be deservedly laughed at who should assert, that our women are not as capable of performing their office, had they the same instructions, as the French women?

BUT this charge of the Midmen will appear still more groundless, if we consider the nature of the blunders they are charged with by Dr. Chamberlen, Giffard, and Chapman, in the cases before

mentioned, viz. of Pulling at the child's arm, Inverting the Matrix, Mistaking the hand for the foot, Leaving the Placenta behind, Being ignorant of the art of Touching, &c. &c. Pray do these charges prove their want of Capacity, Docility, or Strength? Surely no! All that can be reasonably deduced from them, is, that they want a proper education, which is their misfortune more than their fault, and what I'm endeavouring to put in their power to have. Pray is there a Midwoman in England so stupid, as not to be easily convinced, that pulling at the arm is wrong and to no purpose; that tugging too hard at the Navel-string, or laying hold of the fund of the womb, instead of the Placenta, will invert the Uterus; or, that missing their time to take away the Placenta, when the passage is open, makes it both difficult, painful, nay, and dangerous to extract it afterwards; or that could not with proper pains be instructed, to act rationally in these or most other cases? Pray is there any branch of Surgery in which so many of the family of ————— have been and are engaged, as in the business of Midwifery? (Yet some of them are very learned and knowing Men.) An affair of such vast importance to mankind.

How can it be made appear, that Doctors, Apothecaries, and the lowest class of Surgeons, who are as little acquainted with the other principal operations of Surgery, as the very women themselves, are more capable of performing these operations than They, who have much more practice, and many of them as good capacities? Pray where-in consists the secret? It requires no Mathematicks,

no skill in Philosophy, no University learning at all, otherwise most of the Midmen would be distanced as well as all the Midwomen. Has not all ages produced women who have made a figure in the most sublime parts of learning, and in all manner of curious and useful arts; and also illiterate thick-headed Priests, Lawyers, and Physicians? All which is occasioned by nothing so much as having, or wanting, a proper education. *Why then, is it not rational to suppose, that they might also be made capable of assisting their own sex, at that time when it is least proper for Men to come near them?*

BUT now to come to the main point, viz. How the method I propose for the regular instruction of the Midwomen, can be put in execution? To which I answer: 1. That an hospital be erected, E. G. in London or Westminster (at the publick expence, by donation, or subscriptions, as several Alms-houses, Infirmaryes, Hospitals, &c. of far less consequence to the Commonweal, have been and are daily carried on) for the reception of about two or three hundred poor women who are big with child. 2. That a proper number of Midwomen be appointed to attend them. 3. That two Surgeon Midmen be appointed to assist these Midwomen in all extraordinary cases, and to demonstrate the structure of the parts concerned, explain the art of touching, &c. as above, in set lectures, at least three times a week, to all the Midwomen and their apprentices who please to attend. 4. That every young woman, who designs to practice Midwifery,

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shall be obliged to attend these courses during her apprenticeship ; then go and practise, for a set time, under those expert Midwomen in that Hospital: Afterwards let them be examined as to the skill and knowledge they have acquired in their profession, by the two Surgeons, (since our *Dom. fac. totum* take Midwifery either to be no part of Surgery, or such a trifling part of it, that it's below their notice ; notwithstanding some of them can distinguish, to a mathematical exactness, how many grains of more knowledge in Surgery is requisite for a Surgeon of a first, than of a second rate Man of War,) and six or seven other persons, appointed by his majesty, (because I don't think it reasonable, that so many people's bread should depend on the humour and caprice of any two Men only,) and if approved, to receive from them a certificate of their fitness to practise in London or any where else. 5. That, until fit Hospitals can be built and endowed, a Midman be appointed in every city, or county-town in England, to read the foresaid lectures to all the Midwomen in the county, and demonstrate to them the truth of their doctrines on the poor of the neighbourhood, of which there are plenty every where.

If this, or some such SCHEME, was put in execution, in the principal towns of the kingdom, I'm satisfied, in a very few years there would hardly be an ignorant Midwoman in England, and consequently the great agonies, most women suffer at the very mention of a Man, would be almost entirely prevented ; the great expence they cost saved ;

in London, Westminster, &c. 75

and the melancholy scenes above-mentioned, would be no more seen nor heard of. What can be more Desirable? What can shew more Humanity? What can be more Charitable, than to pursue a Design, whereby the lives of so many innocent children, and valuable women, may be yearly, nay daily, saved from destruction?

F I N I S.

Speedily will be published,

(Dedicated to that accurate Anatomist, and consummate ACCOUCHEUR, Dr. James Douglas, Physician Extraordinary to the Queen, Fellow of the Royal Society, and Honorary Fellow of the College of Physicians,)

A Translation of Madam du Tertre's excellent book, entitled *Instruction familiere & très facile*, &c. with the French King's ample privilege, approbation of the College of Physicians, &c. To which will be added, proposals for a Course of MIDWIFERY, to Midwomen only; wherein the principal operations of that art will be briefly explained.

By JOHN DOUGLAS Surgeon, F. R. S.

—Dea sum auxiliaris, opemque
Exorata fero. —————

OVID.

LONDON, M. DCC. XXXVI.

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